



DIVINE WORD MESSENGER

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COVER

On Wednesday, November 5, 1975 The Apostolic Delegate to the United States, Most Rev. Jean Jadot, presented awards to the oldest Black Priests and Brothers in the U.S., at a Mass of Thanksgiving in the chapel of Divine Word Seminary, Bay St. Louis. Receiving the award in this picture is Fr. Francis Wade, S.V.D.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

1 yr.—\$2; 2 yrs.—\$4;
3 yrs.—\$5.

ADDRESS ALL CORRESPONDENCE:

Divine Word Messenger
Bay St. Louis, Mississippi 39520

PHOTO CREDITS:

St. Jules Confirmation, Wilbert White, S.V.D.;
Bishop's Awards, The Morning Star, Lafayette.

Others: Staff or contributed

WINTER, 1975-76

VOL. 53, NO. 1

THE DIVINE WORD MISSIONARIES are an international missionary order of over 5,000 members including Bishops, Priests, and Brothers. In 1905 the order began working among the black people of the southern U.S. Today the order conducts more than 40 parishes and missions in that region. Also, the order early gained a reputation for training black Priests and Brothers at its Bay St. Louis seminary. Today candidates of any race may train there.

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Second class postage paid at Bay Saint Louis, Miss., and at an additional mailing office in Lowell, Mass. DIVINE WORD MESSENGER is published quarterly by Society of the Divine Word, Province of St. Augustine, Bay Saint Louis, Miss. 39520.

Printed by Sullivan Brothers, Lowell, Mass.
SEND FORMS 3579 TO: DIVINE WORD MESSENGER,
BAY SAINT LOUIS, MISSISSIPPI 39520



Editor's Note

Dear Readers,

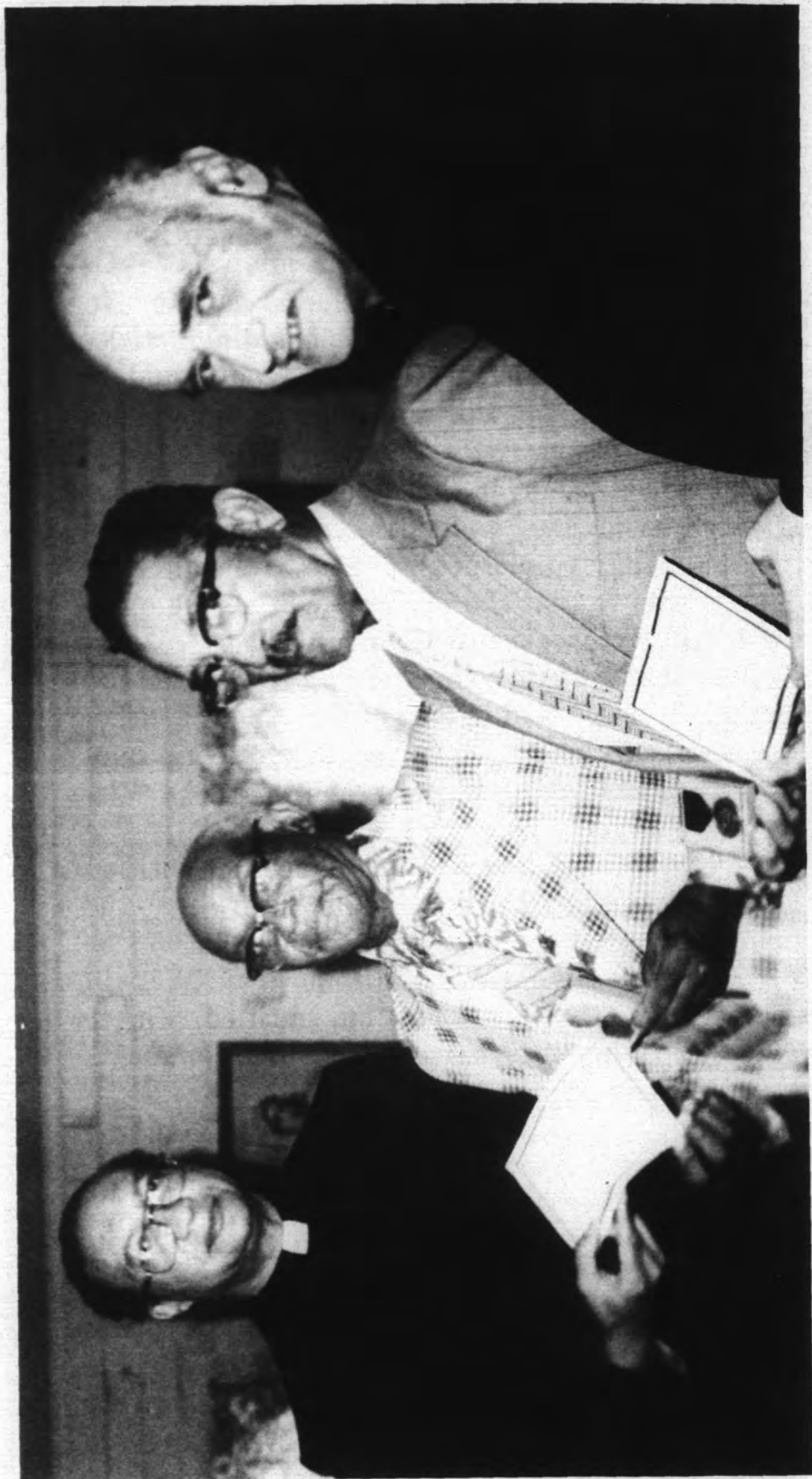
After much reflection and an analysis of the **Divine Word Messenger** we feel that a new format is in order. In the past we have been bringing articles to your attention which we thought you would be interested in and we will continue to bring such articles in future issues.

However, we feel that too much space has been given to articles and not enough space given to the accompanying pictures. The new format hopes to change this so that the pictures will not be overshadowed. We will concentrate more on pictures, for we believe that a picture should tell a story. And the stories that will be told in future issues will concentrate specifically on the various activities and happenings that are taking place in our Southern Missions.

We are doing away with the section entitled "Along the Divine Word Mission Trail" for the simple reason that we hope that each issue will be a trip along our Divine Word Mission trail. We will replace that section with a new one entitled, "Other S.V.D. Happenings". We welcome your comments and suggestions at any time.

Thank You.

(Due to the increase in postage, especially a return request on a change of address (25¢ each) we would like to ask any of our readers who plan on moving to please notify us in advance of any change in address. This will save many dollars for the missions. Thanks.)



TWO S.V.D. PARISHIONERS RECEIVE BISHOP'S AWARD

Two parishioners of St. Martin de Porres Parish, Delcambre, Louisiana were honored at a special Mass concelebrated by Fr. Mark Figaro, S.V.D., Vicar for Black Catholics, Diocese of Lafayette, and Father Jack Sheerin, S.V.D., pastor. Mr. Darvas Jackson and Mr. Charles Broussard were presented certificates and medals on behalf of Bishop Gerard Frey for their outstanding service to the parish. Both men have been trustees of St. Martin de Porres Parish for 27 years and are active as ushers. Both men helped build the first church in the parish back in 1947. It was a fitting tribute to two devoted men, Mr. Darvas Jackson and Mr. Charles Broussard.

**Role of the Society of the Divine Word
in developing the**

Black Catholic Clergy

by **VERY REV. JOSEPH A. FRANCIS, S.V.D.**

EDITOR'S NOTE:

Last November 3-5 the eighth annual conference of the National Black Catholic Clergy was held at St. Joseph's Abbey in Covington, La. More than 100 Black Priests and Brothers were in attendance as well as America's three Black Bishops. The following is an address given by Fr. Francis, who was elected president, to succeed Bishop Joseph Howze, Auxiliary Bishop of Natchez-Jackson.

If I were asked to describe the one most important ingredient that characterizes the role that the Society of The Divine Word played in the development of a Black clergy in the U.S.A., I would have to say **VISION**. This is verified by history and especially here today by the presence of so many of us who either directly or indirectly are Black clerics and religious because of the Society of The Divine Word. The second ingredient was **COURAGE AND PERSEVERANCE** to incarnate that vision under circumstances and amidst conditions almost impossible to live with. Only Black people living in the early 1900's can truly appreciate this — only those who have a sense of, and an appreciation for that history, can identify positively with this. Those early Divine Word Missionaries left rhetoric to others and went about doing — i.e., organizing, planning, praying, and most of all — sharing with Black people. They knew then in 1916 what we know now — that we need Black priests and religious. They did what we

are hesitant to do now — namely, coordinate the efforts of everyone concerned in the important task of bringing forth Black priests and religious.

The third ingredient of the Divine Word Missionaries' part in fashioning a Black clergy in the U.S.A., was **THE MANNER IN WHICH THEY APPROACHED THE TASK**.

—They would not settle for a token Black clergy — namely a few well chosen fair-skinned Black youth in a sea of White seminarians.

—They insisted on academic excellence — such as it was in the seminaries of the day in the U.S.A.

—They educated Black young men in an atmosphere that contributed to identify with Black people and gave the young men a sense of pride in being

(See next page)

Fr. Francis receives the congratulations of the Apostolic Delegate, Most Rev. Jean Jadot, after having been elected president of NBCC.



what they were (a superficial study of St. Augustine's Messenger will verify this).

—They fought for the inclusion of Black young men in seminaries around the country and in the early forties, under the leadership of Father Clarence Howard, they carried on a campaign by writing to advocate Black young men and young women's right to enter the priesthood and religious life.

—They never let the Society of The Divine Word off the hook in pointing out the areas where racism existed.

—They learned from their mistakes and were willing to admit those mistakes.

—Since Divine Word Missionaries are international, Black priests and Brothers were exposed to the church on an international level. Black priests and Brothers have served in Ghana, Zaire, The Republic of Panama, Mexico, Ecuador, The Philippine Islands

Newly-elected officers of the NBCC pause with the Apostolic Delegate after the Mass of Thanksgiving at Divine Word Seminary, Bay St. Louis. Left to right: Rev. Edward Branch, Louisville, Kentucky, Secretary; the Apostolic Delegate, Most Rev. Jean Jadot; Fr. Francis, President; and Rev. August Thompson, Mansura, La., Vice President.



and New Guinea. At least one Divine Word Missionary has served as Secretary General of the Society of the Divine Word and as vice rector of St. Peter's College in Rome.

—Black Divine Word Missionaries have not been left out of leadership positions — long before most of us were born, four Divine Word Missionaries worked in one of the largest Black parishes in the South, one as pastor and the others as associates. Today there are only three Black associate pastors in the Southern Province. The rest are all pastors.

—Four Divine Word Black priests have been to two General Chapters — two as delegates elected by their peers and two as provincials. Divine Word Missionaries have served the church nationally and internationally and will continue to do so—as bishops, pastors, educators, specialists, etc.

I would like to conclude by stating emphatically that the role of the Divine Word Missionaries in the development of a Black clergy could never have been done in isolation from those men and women who worked with and for Black people. The greatest support and affirmation came from the Josephites. They sent us students, they encouraged our efforts and from the time our first Black priests were ordained, the Josephite priests and Brothers took us as their own. They gave us affirmation and respect when we most needed it and contributed to our growth and sense of worth.

The Sisters of The Holy Family stood solidly behind us as did the Sisters of The Blessed Sacrament. They gave us a sense of well-being such as men need from women — time and custom being what they were.

The Benedictines from Collegeville, Minnesota boosted our efforts and in

(Continued on page 15)

St. Jules, Franklin

Adult Confirmation

It was a big day for St. Jules parish and Fr. Wilbert White, S.V.D., pastor when Bishop Gerard Frey came for the adult confirmation ceremonies in the Franklin deanery. The Franklin deanery consists of 13 parishes in the neighboring communities. The significance of the occasion of joy was the fact that of the group that was confirmed, 15 were converts of St. Jules Parish! Mrs. Alvin Navy and her four daughters, Iris, Janice, Debbie, Cherrie (all converts) were among those confirmed.



REMARKS OF THE MOST REVEREND JEAN JADOT, Apostolic Delegate in the United States, at the Mass of Thanksgiving for the oldest Black priests and Brothers in this country at Divine Word Seminary in Bay St. Louis, on Wednesday, November 5, 1975.

My Brothers in the Lord Jesus.

It is indeed a happy privilege for me, as the personal representative of His Holiness, Pope Paul VI, to participate in this Mass of Thanksgiving. The recognition of your significant contribution to the formation of the Church in America is indeed an historic event because you were among the first of an ever-increasing number of Black Catholics who have heeded the call of Jesus Christ to come, follow Him. Because you have heard this call, the Church in the United States has been blessed with generous, optimistic and dedicated holy men.

The Catholic Church in America needs your unique contribution and gifts of blackness if she is to reflect the universal character of the People of

God. These gifts must be recognized and incorporated into the main-stream of the Church's life and structure so that, as the men and women of this nation see us, they will more and more see Christ.

The topics that you have chosen for your three-day convocation are a clear indication of the necessity for Black Catholics to take and be given a greater role in the development and direction of the Catholic Church in the United States. A response to this call can be achieved by the development of strong Black leadership and a strong sense of community among Black Catholics.

It is for you to be the leaven of the total Black Catholic Community as it moves toward a more active participation in the life of the Church in this





country. In recognizing the responsibility — which falls upon you in a special way by virtue of your vocation — you accept the challenge to bring Black Catholics together in the community of Christ. You are to be leaders, able to guide, foster and nourish Black Catholicism in America.

This is a difficult mission. It is one that could easily be misunderstood. Even the term "Black Catholicism" may seem to some to be a contradiction. But you realize that its goals are complementary, not contradictory.

On the one hand, you have to develop a sense of your own Black identity. You see your Blackness as a manifestation of the wonderful diversity within the one Church of Christ and of the many-sided oneness of this vast country.

On the other hand, you must avoid the type of racism that would set you apart from the broader community which is your Church and your country.

You should be ready to work with all men of good will, even though you cannot forget past painful experiences. As we continue the struggle for justice and equality, we all must be aware of the danger of rekindling the fires of rivalry and contention that can come from an excessive or exclusive attachment to the concerns of any one group or race.

The implications of this mandate which comes to you from both the Church and the needs of the Black Community specifies certain tasks for you. Obviously, there is need for men skilled in pastoral ministry. There is need also for competent administrators. But we must not overlook the need to develop among the Black Catholic Clergy and religious a cadre of scholars in theology, canon law and church history who can bring the reflective process of the Black experience to the total affairs of the Church. The Black Catholic Clergy Caucus can and should re-

(Continued on page 17)

**Fr. Anthony Bourges, S.V.D., Pastor
St. Gabriel's Mission, Mound Bayou
Mississippi**

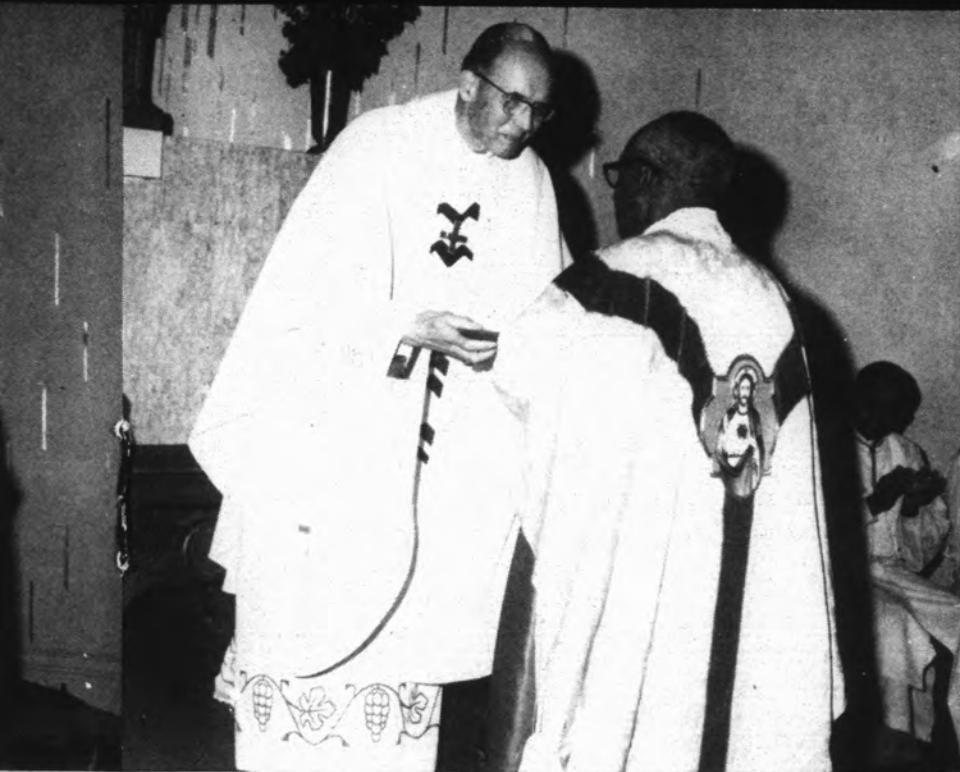


**Fr. Clarence Howard, S.V.D., Pas-
tor, St. Patrick's Church, Oakland,
California**

Divine Word Seminary,
November 5, 1

**Fr. Maurice Rousseve, S.V.D., St.
John Berchman's, New Orleans, La.**



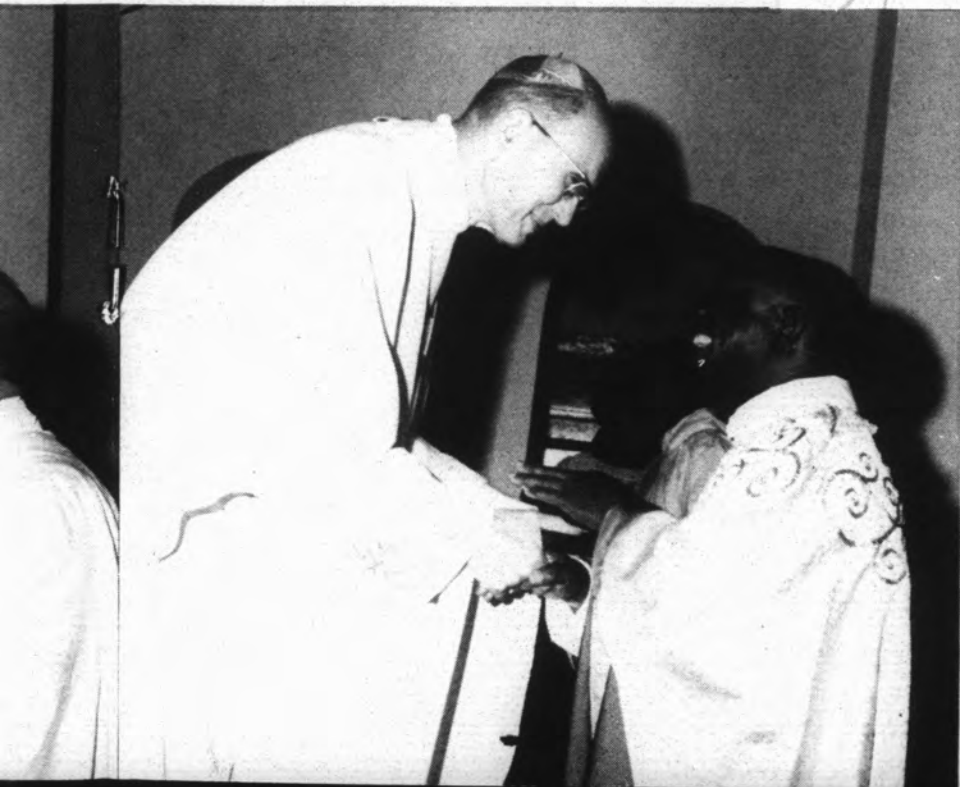


**Fr. John Bowman, S.V.D., Pastor,
St. Mary's, Vicksburg, Mississippi**

**d Seminary, Bay St. Louis
November 5, 1975**



**Brother Joseph Maddox, S.V.D.,
Divine Word Seminary, Bay St.
Louis, Mississippi**



**Fr. John Dauphine, S.V.D., Pastor,
St. Joseph's, Broussard, Louisiana**

New S.V.D. Parish in Louisiana:

St. Anthony's, Lafayette



Fr. William Oliver, S.V.D., Pastor, reads the morning mail at the beginning of another busy day at St. Anthony's

On September 1, 1975, the Divine Word Missionaries were entrusted with the parish of St. Anthony in Lafayette, La., by Bishop Gerard Frey. The parish was originally a mission of St. Genevieve's Church, Lafayette and in 1955 it was established as a parish to serve the Northwest section of the city. The founding pastor was Fr. Roy Edwards and over the years has been served by Fr. Whitney LeBlanc, Fr. Edwin Bourg, and Father Arthur Warren, the last pastor prior to the Divine Word Missionaries being entrusted with the parish.

In 1969 boundaries were given to the parish by Bishop Maurice Schexnayder, Bishop of Lafayette at the

time, and today it is a vibrant parish with approximately 1,000 families. Fr. William Oliver, S.V.D., formerly Director of Holy Rosary Institute, was named pastor and Fr. Stan Gootee, S.V.D., his Associate. The present church was built in 1962. Fr. Oliver and Fr. Gootee have a large program underway, which includes a parish census, C.C.D. classes with over 500 young people coming every Monday and Wednesday afternoon, a recreation center which is leased to the City of Lafayette, among other activities. There is a large contingent of Altar Servers who help in the liturgical functions as well as parishioners who actively participate in parish liturgy and parish functions.

We believe the pictures found on these pages will give an indication of the new S.V.D. parish as it radiates activity with its pastor, Fr. Oliver and his Associate, Fr. Gootee.

Fr. Stan Gootee, S.V.D., Associate Pastor, pauses to share a few thoughts with the photographer





An exterior view of St. Anthony's parish church, Lafayette, La.



An interior view of the very spacious church

(Continued on page 14)



Fr. Oliver and some of the 500 C.C.D. students



Mr. Curt Mouton, organist at St. Anthony's provides splendid liturgical music and singing.

One of the volunteer C.C.D. teachers and her class on a Wednesday afternoon.





Local youth enjoy the recreation center which is leased out to the City of Lafayette by St. Anthony's.

Role of the Society in a Black Clergy

(Continued from page 6)

the forties began to develop their cadre of outstanding priests and Brothers. We could never have survived if thousands of others had not contributed money and time to our growth, and God only knows the role they played.

I am proud to be a Divine Word Missionary. I am proud that I and many Black Divine Word Missionaries have a role in shaping the course of our society relative to Black people in particular, and to people all over the world. My pride includes the happiness I hold in seeing more Black priests and Brothers coming on the scene. The task is no longer a Divine Word, a Josephite, a Benedictine, or diocesan task — it is our task — let's "Put The Pieces Together" in joy and mutual respect and support.

Fr. Francis speaks with Fr. Norman DuKette from Flint, Michigan, the oldest Black priest in the U.S. He was also honored with a standing ovation when presented his award.



ST. BENEDICT THE MOOR, DUSON, LA., CE



On Sunday, January 11, 1976, Fr. Clement Mathis, S.V.D., pastor of St. Benedict the Moor parish celebrated with his parishioners the anniversary of the Divine Word Missionaries foundation. He chose the Sunday nearest the birthday of Fr. Arnold Janssen, S.V.D., which was January 15th. A special display highlighted the Altar for the occasion. Fr. Mathis preached at the Vigil Mass on Saturday evening and after his homily, Fr. William Kelley, S.V.D., Vocation Director of the Southern Province, presented a slide

presentation on the work of the S.V.D.'s around the world. Attending and concelebrating at the Vigil service was Fr. Brendan Murphy, S.V.D., a religion and english teacher at Holy Rosary Institute. On Sunday Fr. Murphy delivered the homily at a special Mass of Thanksgiving celebrated by Fr. Joseph Francis, S.V.D., Provincial of the Southern Province, along with Fr. Mathis and Fr. Kelley. After the Mass the slide presentation was given and materials on the Society of the Divine Word distributed.



A., CELEBRATES S.V.D. 100th



Apostolic Delegate's Remarks

(Continued from page 9)

spond to this need in a formal way. I would hope that there would emerge from your ranks men who would commit themselves to these scholarly tasks.

In this regard, your own experience in the quest for liberation is very similar to the quest in the Third World for a more just society. One of the exciting potentials of your efforts is the opportunity to enter into serious dialog with the Church in the Third World and to pursue with them the serious tasks which lie ahead.

In this way, Black Catholics are not mere passive members of the Church. As Saint Paul says, they are conscious

of the fact that they have unique gifts and talents to offer in building up the Body of Christ, the Church.

Finally, it gives me great joy, in the name of the Holy Father, to congratulate those among you who have given themselves in long service to the Church. For he is well aware of those who have suffered so much, given so much and meant so much to the growth and the life of the Church in America.

May the Lord continue to bless and strengthen you for your love and service to Him and His Church. As a pledge of his paternal affection, I will now impart to you the Apostolic Blessing of our Holy Father, Pope Paul VI.

Other S.V.D. happenings



Archbishop Fulton Sheen speaks with Bishop Perry, S.V.D., prior to delivering the homily at a Special Holy Year Rally held in the Louisiana Superdome on Sept. 7, 1975.



America's two oldest Black priests: Fr. Norman DuKette of Michigan and Fr. Wade of Bay St. Louis. They are 85 and 82 respectively.

Two high school seminarians recently came in first and second in a local Bi-Centennial writing contest. Tom Lotz placed first and Roger Ervin placed second and both were presented with awards.

Fr. Mark Figaro, S.V.D., Vicar for Black Catholics in the Diocese of Lafayette, La., is one of four priests chosen by Bishop Frey to be the Minister of Confirmation at many parish confirmations. On January 25, 1976 there was a Mass of Thanksgiving followed by a public reception for Bishop Harold R. Perry, S.V.D., on the occasion of his 10th Anniversary of episcopal ordination. Bishop Perry is now Pastor of Our Lady of Lourdes parish, New Orleans.

Fr. Joseph Guidry has been appointed as an Associate Vicar for Religious in the diocese of Lafayette. Fr. Guidry, S.V.D., is pastor of Immaculate Heart of Mary parish, Lafayette.



Bishop Joseph B. Brunini, of Natchez-Jackson is seen here in informal discussion with some of our high school seminarians on one of his visits to celebrate the 100th anniversary.

MASS INTENTIONS

Gratefully Received

Repeatedly we receive questions about Mass stipends. We are very grateful for your Mass stipends. They are distributed promptly among our missionaries both at home and abroad. As the individual missionaries must fit your requests into their local schedules and conditions, it is not easily possible, regretfully, to arrange for definite dates on which the Masses will be said or sung.

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GREGORIAN MASSES (requested customarily
for but a single departed soul)
—seventy-five dollars

. cut on this line

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Kind of Mass?

How Many?

For what Intention?

Offering?

Send Mass intentions (with your name
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BAY SAINT LOUIS, MISSISSIPPI 39520**



TO HELP THE MISSIONS

We redeem all pieces of silver, gold, watches, eyeglasses, gold fillings, or any odd pieces of jewelry.

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PRAY FOR VOCATIONS

FATHER READING ROOM
DIVINE WORD SEMINARY
EAST TROY WI 53120

The Divine Word Missionaries of the Southern Province, U.S.A. In Your Will

Dear Reader: We, Divine Word Missionaries, publishers of *Divine Word Messenger*, and veterans in the Southern Missions in the South, address this request to you: Will you remember our work in the Southern Missions when you make your last Will and Testament? Any amount you bequeath to us for this work, we assure you, will be put to most worthy use. God will bless your interest in His cause. It was He who advised "Lay up to yourselves treasures in heaven . . ."

(Matt. VI, 20).

FORM OF BEQUEST IN WILL

I hereby give, devise, and bequeath to Society of the Divine Word, Southern Province, Bay Saint Louis, Mississippi, the sum of _____ dollars for the uses and purposes of said Province, the same to be its, absolutely and in fee simple. It is my wish that I be remembered in all Masses which may be read for benefactors of said Province.

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201 Ruella Ave.

Bay St. Louis, MS 39520

DIVINE WORD **Messenger**

SPRING — 1976



PILLAR OF THE SOUTH DIES

**BISHOP PERRY'S 10TH ANNIVERSARY AS BISHOP
I.H.M. PARISH, LAFAYETTE, THRIVES ON ACTIVITIES
ELEPHANTS RAID RECTORY . . . TUSK, TUSK**

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Jim Pawlicki, S.V.D.
Associated Press

COVER

Lottie Dixon sings for Immaculate Heart of Mary's production of "IT'S NOT NORMAL." For related story see page 28.

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PHOTO CREDITS:

Jim Kelly, Novice; I.H.M. Basketball Team and "Youth Pledge Service": The Morning Star, Lafayette.

Others: Staff or contributed.

SPRING, 1976
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On Wednesday morning, February 25, 1976, the Divine Word Missionaries lost one of its pillars of the Southern Province in the person of Father Francis Guy Wade, S.V.D., a member of the first class of St. Augustine Seminary in Bay St. Louis. Spurred on by an indefatigable desire to become a priest, Father Wade realized his dream when the odds were against it.

Firmly believing that there is no such thing as "I can't", but only "I won't", Father Wade lived in such a way that he always aimed at achieving the goals he set. One little story will illustrate this: Once when he was a young boy attending school in Washington, D.C., his teacher was expounding the different attributes of great men and women. Having finished, the teacher then asked each in the class to indicate who they would like to imitate. The answers ranged from George Washington Carver, George Washington, Abraham Lincoln to Betsy Ross, etc. Everyone had answered except little Francis Wade. "And Francis, who do you want to be like?" asked the teacher. "I want to be like Jesus Christ", responded Francis, and he was serious about it. Naturally, the classroom was astonished at his response. Father Wade not only had this ambition of being like Jesus Christ but he also tried to live up to it in his lifetime.

Nearly 60 priests from the surrounding area, his relatives, and many friends joined together to pay tribute to him at his funeral on Friday, February 27, 1976. His death was, as one of the homilists expressed it, an "AL-LELUIA" rather than one of sorrow. In the same way as the foundations of a building always remain, so will Father Wade's spirit be with us because he is ONE of our PILLARS.

May he Rest in Peace.

Born on September 12, 1894 in Washington, D.C., the son of the late Benjamin Wade and Caroline Dukette Wade, Father Wade did his grammar schooling at St. Augustine's Parochial School operated by the Oblate Sisters of Providence. He attended the "M" Street High School for his secondary education. After working as a teacher near Norfolk, Virginia and an office worker in Philadelphia and New York, he joined the Society of the Atonement Friars and became a Brother in that community. Ever since his childhood days, he always wanted to be a priest. However, since there were no seminaries in the United States accepting Black youth at the time, he joined the Friars. Eventually he learned about St. Augustine's Seminary in Bay St. Louis, which became the first seminary in the United States to accept Black youth for the priesthood and was granted entrance to begin studying for the priesthood in Bay St. Louis in 1924.



Fr. Wade as an Atonement Friar prior to joining the S.V.D.'s.



Rev. Francis G. Wade, S.V.D., 1894-1976

He spent two years of Novitiate at Holy Ghost Novitiate, East Troy, Wisconsin and pronounced his first vows as a member of the Society of the Divine Word in Bay St. Louis on September 8, 1929. His final vows were pronounced on February 24, 1934 and he was ordained to the priesthood on May 23, 1934 by Most Rev. Richard O. Gerow, Bishop of Natchez-Jackson.

After ordination, Fr. Wade was assigned to Immaculate Heart of Mary parish, Lafayette, La. In 1937 he assumed care of St. Benedict the Moor parish, Duson, LA, and became its pastor in 1939. In 1941, Fr. Wade was elected National Chaplain of the Knights of Peter Claver, a national Black Catholic Fraternal order. Having served as pastor of St. Benedict the Moor parish, he was then appointed pastor of St. Joseph's parish, Maurice, La., and it was here that he built

St. Joseph's Church. In 1954, Fr. Wade was made pastor of Immaculate Heart of Mary, Lafayette, La., and built the new church of the parish in 1958. While serving as pastor at Immaculate Heart of Mary, Father Wade also served the Mouton Switch, La. mission.

In 1961 he became pastor of St. Rose de Lima parish, Bay St. Louis, Ms. and served until his retirement in 1964.

Father Wade spent his retirement days at Divine Word Seminary of St. Augustine where he first began his studies for the missionary priesthood. He had been an inspiration to all the members of the community. An avid stamp enthusiast, he spent much of his time of retirement on his hobby.

Recently Fr. Wade attended the Beatification ceremonies of the Founder of the Divine Word Missionaries, Blessed Arnold Janssen, S.V.D., in St. Peter's Square on October 19, 1975.

On November 6, 1975 Fr. Wade was honored by the National Black Clergy Caucus. He was presented the award of recognition from the N.B.B.C., by the Most Rev. Jean Jadot, Apostolate Delegate to the United



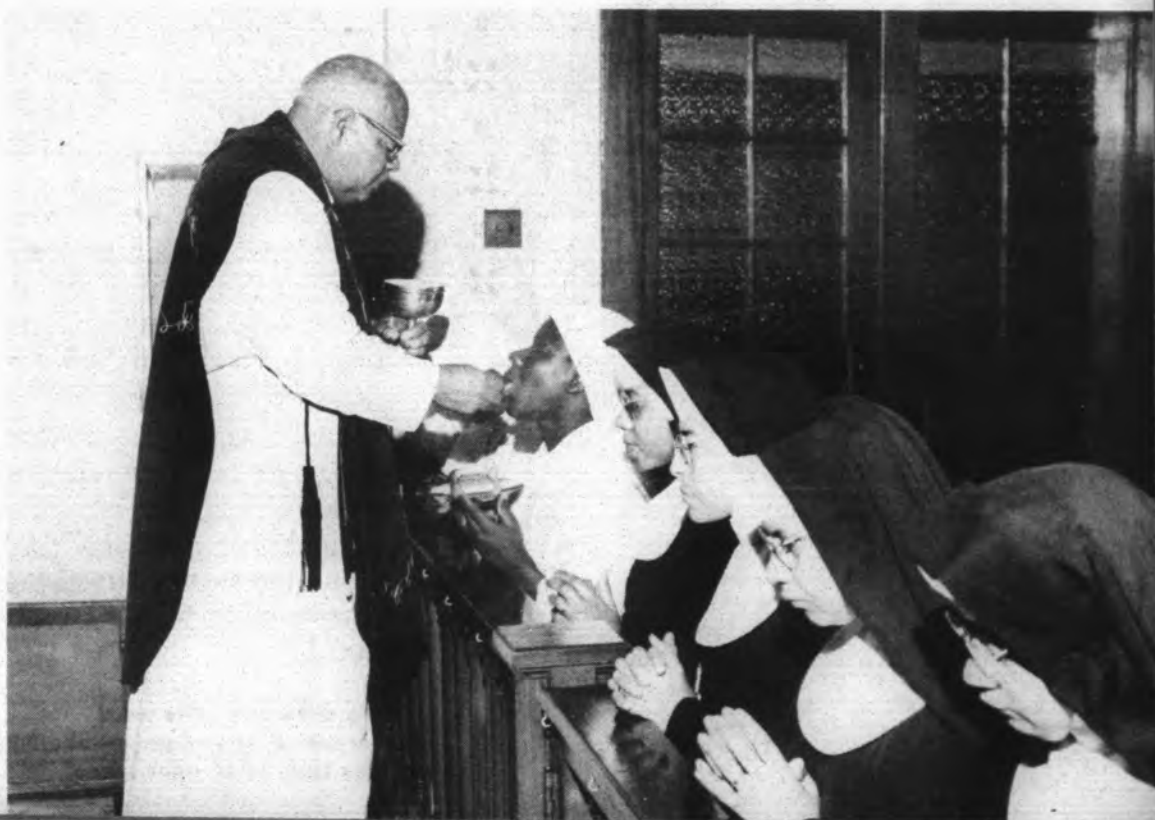
AS A YOUNG PRIEST

Fr. Wade is seen with two members of his class presently working in the Southern Province, Fr. Maurice Rousseve, S.V.D., Chaplain at St. John Berchman's, New Orleans, and Rev. Anthony Bourges, S.V.D., Pastor at Mound Bayou, Mississippi.

States at a Mass of Thanksgiving at St. Augustine's Seminary, Bay St. Louis.

As our readers will recall Father Wade's picture graced our last cover.

Doing priestly work
was his whole life
... totally dedicated.





Bishop Perry enters Our Lady of Lourdes church, where he is pastor, for a Mass of Thanksgiving



On Sunday, January 25, 1976 Bishop Harold R. Perry, S.V.D., Pastor of Our Lady of Lourdes Church, New Orleans, was honored at a Special Mass of Thanksgiving concelebrated by over 80 priests confreres, Archbishop Philip M. Hannon of New Orleans and retired Auxiliary Bishop Abel Caillouet, also of New Orleans. The occasion marked the 10th anniversary of Bishop Perry as bishop. Very Rev. Joseph Francis, S.V.D., Provincial of the Southern Province, preached the homily and St. Philip the Apostle Gospel choir sang to an overflowing congregation. A reception followed in the school auditorium.

Once again a pastor after having served in chancery circles, Bishop Perry was named pastor of Our Lady of Lourdes in June, 1975. "Pastoral work was always my first love, and it is the purpose for which I entered the priesthood."

The Offertory gifts were presented by various members of Our Lady of Lourdes school.

New
Jo

"The important thing," he emphasized, "is to bring the Gospel of Jesus Christ especially to members of the black community."

It has been said that the Church should be more black oriented, to make black students and black priests feel more at home. In agreeing with this, the bishop pointed out that "otherwise, the black student feels like a foreigner in his own homeland."

A current project that Bishop Perry is high on, is in the catechetical field within the Office of Religious Education. "New catechetical aids that are black oriented have been planned and

discussed for presentation to black communities. It doesn't affect any doctrines, but it involves transparencies that use black models for the black communities to identify with."

And as for his life in the Archdiocese of New Orleans, Bishop Perry says: "I really feel loved and welcome in this community, anywhere I go. People are open and friendly and have made my life pleasant." And Bishop Perry has made the lives of the Community of God in New Orleans more meaningful by his presence among them. May he have many more years of dedicated service.

RECEPTION SHOTS



New Orleans' City Councilman, James Moreau presents a citation from the city.



Student Body President conveys Spiritual Bouquet to Bishop Perry.



Lt. Gov. James Fitzmorris congratulates Bishop Perry on his anniversary.

Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish, La



Fr. Joseph Guidry, S.V.D., busy at work, checking parish records.



Sr. Francis Therese, S.S.F., Principal of IHM, assists a pupil in the Right to Read program.

ish, Lafayette, La., Thrives on Activities

A casual visitor to Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish, Lafayette, La. cannot help but notice a bundle of activity taking place. Either the doorbell or the telephone is a good indication of the amount of Apostolic work taking place within the parish. Fr. Joseph Guidry, S.V.D., pastor, along with his two zealous associates, Fr. Jim Pawlicki, S.V.D. and Fr. Al Dixon, S.V.D., together with a dedicated staff of Holy Family Sisters operate one of the largest parishes in the Southern Province of the Divine Word Missionaries.

For example, Immaculate Heart of Mary School was selected to participate in the National Right to Read Program and as such, the school serves as a pilot project for the program in the Diocese of Lafayette. Sr. Francis Therese, S.S.F., principal of Immacu-

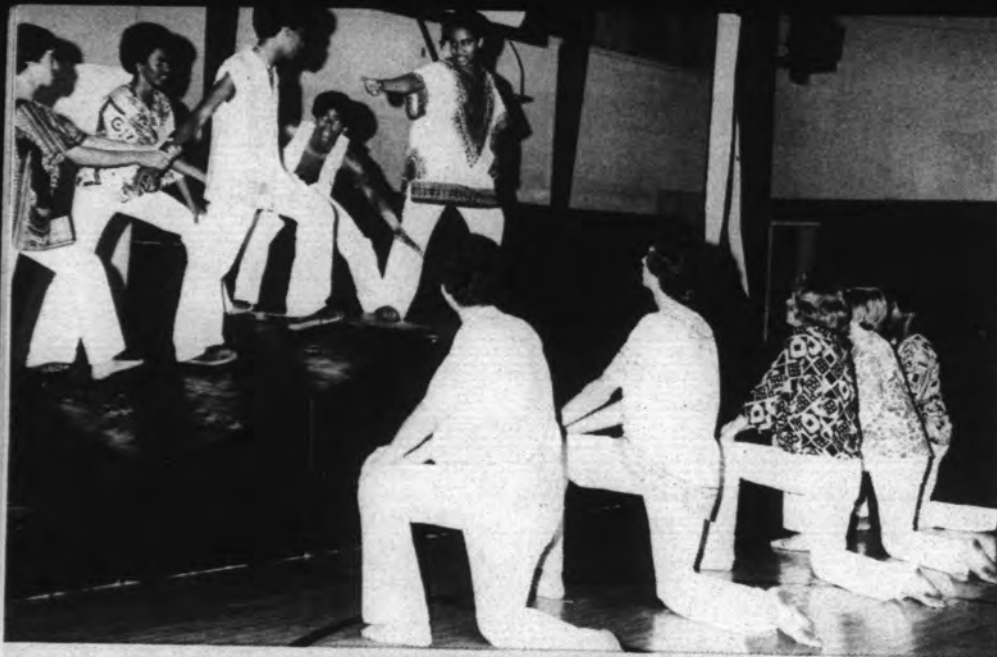
late Heart of Mary School is a reading specialist, holding an M.A. degree in reading and B.A. degree in elementary education. A teacher of 16 years, Sr. Therese is directing the Right to Read Program, founded in 1969 as a federal program aimed at eliminating illiteracy. It is based upon the idea that everyone in the nation regardless of age, race or social economic background has the right to the benefits and pleasures of being able to read. Immaculate Heart of Mary was chosen after careful consideration of all schools in the Lafayette area because of the need, the location of the school, the qualification of the principal, faculty stability and the physical plant.

Likewise, the People's Choir of Immaculate Heart of Mary under the di-

Continued on Page 32



Scenes from "It's Not Normal" staged by the Immaculate Heart of Mary's People's Choir.



"TRIAL BEFORE PILATE"

Jesus as innocence is accused of false charges and suffers for all those who suffer injustice in the face of power.

"LIGHT IN THE"

(Editor's Note: On March 19, 20 of St. Augustine's presented a mu pretation of the last days of Chri were an overwhelming success a Music, dance, song, and slides ranged to accomplish its aim: Lo give all one has to become a "Lig



"LONG LIVE GOD"

The apostles bear their friend Jesus march singing and dancing to a hope hearts . . . "Long live G

Slides on overhead projectors during the 39 lashings brought home that Jesus still suffers in our brothers and sisters today.



IN THE DARK"

On March 19, 20, 21, the seminarians presented a multi-media dance interpretation of the Easter story. The performances were a great success and highly acclaimed. The music, lighting, and slides were artistically arranged to achieve its aim: Love one another and become a "Light in the Dark".)



"OUT OF THE DEPTHS"

If it could be imagined what the prayer of Jesus might have been in the agony of the garden, this song certainly reflects his urgency, his forgiveness and his hope.



"LONG LIVE GOD"

... their friend Jesus in a solemn burial ... dancing to a hope that lives in their hearts ... "Long live God."



"Light in the Dark" cast of high school seminarians and Novices, and Tom Umbras, director.





The People's Choir of Immaculate Heart of Mary, an award winning choral group.

rection of Fr. Pawlicki recently presented a play entitled *It's Not Normal*. The play was presented in memory of the birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The play deals with the fact that there is such a thing as *Black Culture* in speech, in songs, in poetry and literature which is good and beautiful.

It's Not Normal, therefore, simply speaks of the fact that it is not normal for a people to laugh at themselves and their culture. The play was presented in the Lafayette Municipal Auditorium, a first for any local Black group. It was attended by over 600 people with standing room only. Many parishioners from nearby S.V.D. parishes

The Choir is seen receiving the Freedom Award from the Lafayette NAACP Chapter. Rev. Derak B. King presented the award.



attended, e.g., Baton Rouge, Jeanerette, St. Martinville, Franklin, Broussard, Delcambre, Duson, etc.

The People's Choir received the Freedom Award from the Lafayette Chapter of the N.A.A.C.P. It was the first time such an award was given and the People's Choir was chosen because of its outstanding contribution to the field of Black Culture and awareness. Rev. Derak B. King, nephew of the late Dr. Martin Luther King, presented the award at ceremonies held at the Paul Braux School Gym on January 16, 1976. More recently, the choir sang at a Mass celebrated in St. John's Cathedral, Lafayette, on March 28th, honoring Mother Catherine Drexel, a pioneer in the Black Apostolate in Southwest Louisiana and foundress of the Blessed Sacrament Sisters. Fr. Dixon preached the homily for the occasion and many S.V.D.'s were in attendance, including Bishop Harold R. Perry, S.V.D., a co-celebrant; Very Rev. Joseph A. Francis, S.V.D., Provincial Superior of the Southern Province; among others.

The Immaculate Heart of Mary parishioners attended the wake of Father Wade, S.V.D. in Bay St. Louis. Since it was a working day, they had to leave at 4:00 P.M. for the journey to Bay St. Louis and returned to Lafayette well after midnight. On March 5th, a special parish Mass was held at Immaculate Heart of Mary. Mrs. Irene Mouton and Mrs. Anna Mae Isaac gave reflective thoughts during the Mass on Fr. Wade's life while he served as pastor.

Mr. Charles Pete, who was featured in the Fall issue, a member of Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish, died at the age of 109. The day following his funeral, services were held for Estelle Roy, 91, also a member of Immaculate Heart of Mary. Together their ages totaled the age of our country — a thought to consider.

Bishop Carlos Lewis, S.V.D., Auxiliary Bishop of Panama, recuperated at Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish after undergoing surgery in a local hospital and has now returned to Panama.

The Immaculate Heart of Mary 8th



Mr. John Nezey, a local musician, has his own band, and plays the trumpet, the organ and bass.

grade basketball team coached by Mr. Michael Dixon, won the Crowley, Louisiana Invitational Tournament, The Immaculate Heart of Mary Tournament and place second in the City-Wide Teurlings Invitational. Sr. Carmen Bertrand, S.S.F., 7th grade teacher at Immaculate Heart of Mary, has done an excellent job in providing a successful athletic program at Immaculate Heart of Mary.

During the Lenten season, once again Immaculate Heart of Mary and St. Genevieve parishes presented a Teaching Series. On Monday, March 8th, Fr. Al Dixon, S.V.D., and Fr. Rex Broussard gave a talk on "The meaning of sin and forgiveness in the Bible." The following week, Monday, March 15th, Fr. Joe Guidry, S.V.D., and Fr. Jerome Frey, S.M., spoke on the subject of forgiveness entitled "Making a ritual out of forgiveness! (How times have changed it)." Then on Monday, March 22nd, Fr. Jim Pawlicki, S.V.D., and Fr. Bill Havenar concluded the series with "What's New?" Changes in the ritual of forgiveness." As our readers can see, countless activities abound in Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish.



Elephants Raid Rectory

Tusk, Tusk!

(*Editor's Note:* The following story about two Divine Word Missionaries appeared in the morning edition of the *Times-Picayune*, New Orleans, on March 25, 1976. As is mentioned in the article, Father Mullally, S.V.D., was in the process of renovating his rectory when the incident occurred. Fr. Jeschke, S.V.D., was visiting the parish preaching a Lenten Mission. It is repeated for the interest of our readers through the courtesy of the *Times-Picayune* and the *Associated Press*.)

JEANERETTE, LA. (AP) — When the Rev Tom Mullally heard glass shatter in the rectory early Wednesday he popped out of bed, ran into the front room and came eye to eye with a bull elephant.

It was Father Mullally who blinked.

He retreated rapidly and shouted to a fellow Catholic priest, the Rev. Richard Jeschke of St. Martinville, La., to get up and come help.

"Jeschke!" he bellowed. "Jeschke!" We got elephants!."

Father Jeschke, at the rectory on a

visit, was sleepy and not easily convinced.

"He told me I was crazy and go back to bed," said Father Mullally.

When Father Jeschke finally came forth he saw elephant trunks thrust through the broken glass of the front door, sniffing the air and groping.

Three Indian elephants, having worked loose from a small circus, were wandering around the neighborhood at 2 a.m. investigating. Something in the rectory attracted them.

While Father Jeschke talked with sheriff's deputies, who did not quite believe a telephone report, Father Mullally armed himself with a broom. But the beasts were peaceable.

Father Mullally said they contented themselves with dragging out a couple of cans of paint, being used in renovation work at Our Lady of the Rosary, and trampling them.

"They crushed them like pancakes, splattering paint all over," said Father Jeschke. "Two of them went across the road and ate some bushes. Then the state police came, and a little later the elephant trainer from the circus." The trainer, from Fisher Bros. Circus, secured two of his elephants quickly. The third trumpeted protest, but finally gave in and was led away. The circus promised to pay all damages.

"It was an unusual morning," sighed Father Jeschke.



NEW APPOINTMENTS



Rev. Thomas Krosnicki, S.V.D., new consultant to the Vatican Congregation for the Sacraments and Worship, and Pope Paul VI.

Father Thomas Krosnicki, S.V.D., Associate Director of the Secretariat of the U.S. Bishops' Committee on the Liturgy and a member of the Southern Province of the Divine Word Missionaries, has been made a consultant to the Vatican Congregation for the Sacraments and Worship by Pope Paul VI. He will work in the area of worship, and is scheduled to serve on the Committee until 1981. Father Krosnicki was formally an assistant Novice Master at Divine Word Seminary in Bay St. Louis. Ordained in 1966, he received a doctorate in liturgy from the Pontifical Liturgical Institute in Rome in 1971. Fr. Krosnicki was the only American among recently appointed consultants.

Father Terry Steib, S.V.D., a member of the Seminary staff at Bay St. Louis has been elected by the Board of the National Black Catholic Clergy Caucus as its Executive Director. A member of the Provincial Council for the Southern Province, Father Steib likewise was a member of the Com-



Fr. Terry Steib, S.V.D., Executive Director, NBCCC.

mission on Education, Diocese of Natchez-Jackson, Mississippi and is at present the Chairman of the English Department at St. Stanislaus High, Bay St. Louis and Director of the On-Going Education for the Southern Province of the Divine Word Missionaries.



A panel discussion entitled "Human Rights in Current Public Issues" (Human dignity and rights in birth, life and death) presented by the Archdiocese of New Orleans and hosted by St. Thomas University Parish, was held at the University of New Orleans in January.

Panel members included Dr. Jerome Salomone, Professor of Sociology; Harold R. Ainsworth, Lawyer; Helen Cassidy, Professor at Tulane University School of Social Work; Emile Comar, Executive Director of the Clarion Herald; and the Rev. Jerome LeDoux, S.V.D., Associate Professor of Theology at Xavier University.

Father Jerome LeDoux, S.V.D., made the front cover of the *Dixie* magazine of the Sunday's Times-Picayune (January 25, 1976). The feature story concerned itself with the wedding ceremonies in different cultures. Fr. LeDoux was dressed in a surplice of

brightly colored cloth patterned after Nigerian textiles.

Bishop L. Abel Caillouet, Auxiliary Bishop of New Orleans conferred the Sacrament of Confirmation on 83 young men and women from the parishes of St. Thomas, Pointe-a-la-Hache; St. Martin de Porres, Davant; and Assumption, Bertrandville. Father Bernard Keller, S.V.D., pastor of St. Thomas celebrated the Mass. Many S.V.D.'s were in attendance to join Fr. Keller and Fr. Pete Smits, S.V.D., pastor of Assumption, Bertrandville.

Father A. Francis Theriault, S.V.D., Assistant Provincial, gave the 10th Annual Day of Recollection on Sunday, March 28, 1976 to the Knights and Ladies of Peter Claver and E. O. Moss Grand Assembly No. 4 at Our Lady of Grace Church in Reserve, La.

St. Mary's Parish, Vicksburg, Ms., observed S.V.D. Day on Sunday, March 28, 1976, with a solemn Mass of Thanksgiving commemorating the centennial of the Society and celebrating the beatification of its founder, Blessed Arnold Janssen and Father Joseph Fienademetz, one of its first missionaries.

Father William Kelley, S.V.D., of Bay St. Louis, Ms., preached the homily at the Mass. At 4 p.m. he presented a slide lecture on the work of the Society around the world. A special missionary display was on exhibit in the sanctuary. The Society began its pastoral work among the Blacks of the state when St. Mary's Parish in Vicksburg was established in 1906. St. Mary's will be featured in the next issue of the Messenger.

Our Lady of the Rosary Church Fair took place from Tuesday, April 6th through Sunday, April 11th on the church grounds

Bishop L. Abel Caillouet and the Confirmation Class of St. Thomas, St. Martin de Porres and Assumption



Fr. Ed McGuinn, S.V.D., conducted an organization and goal setting seminar for members of the Southern Province at St. Paul's, Baton Rouge.



Tom Lotz
1st Place Winner



Roger Ervin
3rd Place Winner

in Jeanerette, La. Besides the usual rides, games, dinner, etc., a special gumbo dinner a la Louisiana was an added feature on Saturday evening.

Very Rev. Joseph A. Francis, S.V.D., has been re-elected to another term of three years as Provincial Superior of the Southern Province.

The 1976 WORD IN THE WORLD magazine will feature the "Black Apostolate" of the Divine Word Missionaries in the United States. Many of the articles were written by members of the Southern Province and it features photos from many of the parishes of the Southern Province.

Two high school seminarians, Tom Lotz and Roger Ervin, both sophomores, placed First and Third respectively in the Veteran's of Foreign Wars' "Voice of Democracy" contest in Bay St. Louis. Both were awarded the "Voice of Democracy" medal and emblem for their efforts in the city-wide contest.

BLACK CATHOLIC MEN OF GOD

A compilation of Black Priests and Brothers in the U.S., has been published and is available for purchase. The cost is \$10 per copy. Edited by Rev. George Clements of Chicago, the hard bound edition can be obtained by writing to:

Divine Word Messenger
Bay St. Louis, Ms. 39520

Freeing the Spirit and *Impact* are two publications of the National Office of Black Catholics and information concerning the two may be obtained by writing:

National Office of Black Catholics
734 15th St., N.W. Suite 906
Washington, D.C.

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Repeatedly we receive questions about Mass stipends. We are very grateful for your Mass stipends. They are distributed promptly among our missionaries both at home and abroad. As the individual missionaries must fit your requests into their local schedules and conditions, it is not easily possible, regrettably, to arrange for definite dates on which the Masses will be said or sung.

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DIVINE WORDS



THE MOST REVEREND JOSEPH ABEL FRANCIS, S.V.D., D.D.
TITULAR BISHOP OF VALLIPOSITA
AUXILIARY TO THE ARCHBISHOP OF NEWARK

DIVINE WORD MESSENGER

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William J. Kelley, S.V.D.

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COVER

Most Rev. Joseph A. Francis, S.V.D., D.D., Titular Bishop of Valliposita, Auxiliary To the Archbishop of Newark, is the fourth alumnus of St. Augustine Seminary, Bay St. Louis, Ms. to be named to the episcopacy.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

1 yr.—\$2; 2 yrs.—\$4;
3 yrs.—\$5.

ADDRESS ALL CORRESPONDENCE:

Divine Word Messenger
Bay St. Louis, Mississippi 39520

PHOTO CREDITS: Staff

SUMMER 1976

VOL. 53, NO. 3

THE DIVINE WORD MISSIONARIES are an international missionary order of over 5,000 members including Bishops, Priests, and Brothers. In 1905 the order began working among the black people of the southern U.S. Today the order conducts more than 40 parishes and missions in that region. Also, the order early gained a reputation for training black Priests and Brothers at its Bay St. Louis seminary. Today candidates of any race may train there.

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Second class postage paid at Bay Saint Louis, Miss., and at an additional mailing office in Lowell, Mass. DIVINE WORD MESSENGER is published quarterly by Society of the Divine Word, Province of St. Augustine, Bay Saint Louis, Miss. 39520.

Printed by Sullivan Brothers, Lowell, Mass.
SEND FORMS 3579 TO: DIVINE WORD MESSENGER,
BAY SAINT LOUIS, MISSISSIPPI 39520

Editor's Note

We, Divine Word Missionaries of the Southern Province, take pride in dedicating this special issue of the Messenger to our former Provincial and confrere, Bishop Joseph Abel Francis, S.V.D., D.D., Auxiliary Bishop of Newark, New Jersey. His qualifications for his new position are well founded. A highly gifted individual with personal charisma and leadership ability, Bishop Francis brings a vast reservoir of experience to the Church in New Jersey, having served as Provincial Superior of the Divine Word Missionaries' Western and Southern Province, as President of the Major Superiors Conference of Men in the U.S.A., President of the National Black Catholic Clergy Caucus, as a member of various boards, among other positions.

It was natural, therefore, that on Friday, June 25, 1976 at 4:00 p.m. in Newark, New Jersey, scores of people came from North, South, East and West to honor Bishop Joe at his entrance into the ranks of the episcopacy at Sacred Heart Cathedral.

His parents, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph A. Francis of Lafayette, La.; his brother, Dr. Norman Francis, President of Xavier University, New Orleans, and wife; his sisters, Mrs. Mabel Bobb and husband and family of Grand Coteau, La.; Mrs. Velma Boykin and husband of St. Louis; Mrs. Pauline Navarre of Lafayette; nephews and nieces, friends, associates, 58 of his religious family, the S.V.D.'s came to the packed cathedral of 2,000 to participate in the two and one-half hour ceremony televised live on New Jersey Public Television.

More than 45 bishops, archbishops, Cardinal Terence Cooke of New York, attended the ceremony with the Apostolic Delegate, Archbishop Jean Jadot, presiding at the ordination of two other Auxiliary Bishops and the reception of a third Auxiliary to Archbishop Peter L. Gerety of Newark.

Bishop Francis has been appointed episcopal vicar of Essex County, a mixture of city and suburb, with communities ranging from the state's largest city, Newark, to suburban neighborhoods.

Bishop Francis' motto "Liberty, Peace and Justice" is what the bishop has dedicated his life to as a black religious, a priest and missionary and now as a bishop.

We feel confident that he will live up to his motto of proclaiming the Word of God with liberty, peace and justice, and we offer him our sincerest congratulations, best wishes, and prayers.

Announcement of Appointment

May 4, 1976

(Editor's Note: Father Francis, President of the Major Religious Superiors Conference of Men, was attending the annual meeting of Bishops in Chicago, when the announcement of his appointment as Auxiliary Bishop of Newark came over the news wire. The following is an abbreviated form of that announcement.)



BISHOP FRANCIS, S.V.D.

The Pope also named three new auxiliaries to Archbishop Peter Gerety of Newark, N.J. They are Father Robert F. Garner, pastor of Our Lady of Mercy, Jersey City; Father Joseph A. Francis, a black priest who is provincial of the Divine Word Fathers; and Father Dominic A. Marconi, director of the Family Life Apostolate in the Newark archdiocese.

The appointments were announced here by Archbishop Jean Jadot, apostolic delegate in the United States.

Bishop-elect Francis was born Sept. 30, 1923, in Lafayette, La., and attended St. Paul's elementary school there. He continued his education at the Divine Word Fathers' St. Augustine's Seminary in Bay St. Louis Miss., and St. Mary's Seminary, Techny, Ill. Ordained Oct. 7, 1950, he earned a master's degree at the Catholic University of America and did graduate work at Loyola University in Los Angeles.

He was an instructor and dean of students at St. Augustine's Seminary in 1951-52 and assistant director of Holy Rosary Institute from 1952-60. After serving as administrator of parishes in Lafayette, La., Austin, Tex., and Los Angeles, he became principal of Verbum Dei High School in Los Angeles.

He was provincial superior of the Divine Word Fathers' Western Province from 1967-73 and has been provincial of the congregation's Southern province since 1973. He is also president of the Conference of Major Superiors of Men and of the Black Catholic Clergy Caucus.

Response of Bishop-Elect Francis

I am extremely pleased with my appointment by Pope Paul VI as Titular Bishop of Valliposita and Auxiliary Bishop to Archbishop Peter Gerety of the Archdiocese of Newark.

Archbishop Gerety has demonstrated since the earliest days of his priesthood his concern for and efforts in behalf of black people. His elevation as Bishop and then Archbishop afforded him the opportunity to intensify his efforts both locally and nationally. My appointment as one of his Auxiliaries lends credence and affirms the ministry of the Archdiocese of Newark in general and Archbishop Gerety's specific efforts.

In a more prophetic manner — my appointment carries an undeniable approbation and blessing on the pioneer and bold efforts of the Society of the Divine Word which has now four black Bishops from St. Augustine's Seminary in Bay St. Louis, Mississippi. Moreover the four black Bishops of the U.S. Hierarchy each has a significant connection with the state of Mississippi and the Diocese of Natchez-Jackson — i.e., Bishop Harold Perry, SVD, educated, ordained, served as Provincial Superior in Bay St. Louis, Miss.; Bishop Joseph Howze, Auxiliary of Natchez-Jackson; Bishop Eugene Marino, S.S.J., Born and educated in Biloxi, Miss. and I, Joseph Francis, SVD — educated, taught, was Provincial Superior in Bay St. Louis, Miss.

The obvious conclusion is that some of the most significant black Church leadership has originated in Mississippi — a state which is by far not a Catholic state, has been one of the most oppressive states vis-a-vis black people, and even today the nation does not fully appreciate the rate at which Mississippi is moving as compared to the

rest of the country. There is much more to be done — but I, for one, recognize God speaking to us from Mississippi.

My knowledge of Newark is minimal, but I view my coming to Newark in the service of the Church as the second great challenge in my life — the first was my work in Watts as principal of Verbum Dei High School. I am excited about the prospects and look forward to serving the Church in Newark.



BISHOP FRANCIS, S.V.D.

One Must Do Beautiful Things

by Anne Buckley

(Editor's Note: The following article appeared in THE ADVOCATE, the official publication of the Archdiocese of Newark, the week of the ordination of Bishop Francis, and is being reprinted through the courtesy of the author, Anne Buckley. We thank her for a story well written.)

Joseph Abel Francis, Jr., was seven years old when he told a neighbor, "I'm going to be a priest." "You can't," she said. "You're colored."



Early Childhood Days: Young Joe Francis is shown with younger sister, Pauline, and Mrs. Zoe Connor (deceased).

The little boy knew what that meant. "I sat in the balcony at the movies. Our neighborhood was integrated and most were Catholics but we went to a different church and a different school," he remembers.

Still, he recalls, "I was tremendously disappointed" by what the neighbor, also black, had told him about the priesthood. He used to play at being a priest, "preach" to little congregations of playmates. And by age 12 he was accepted into the minor seminary of the Society of the Divine Word in Bay St. Louis, Miss. — the only seminary in the country which accepted blacks at that time.



First Holy Communion. Joe Francis and sister, Pauline.



Baseball player at Minor Seminary, Bay St. Louis, Miss.

Joseph A. Francis was ordained a priest October 7, 1950. He earned a masters degree at Catholic University and was named dean of students at the seminary, then director of the largest co-educational high school in his home town, Lafayette, La. Next came parish ministry, in Lafayette and Austin, Texas. In 1962, he founded Verbum Dei High School in the Watts section of Los Angeles. For the past nine years he has been an elected provincial superior of the Divine Word Missionaries — first heading their Western Province, most recently their Southern Province.

His intellectual gifts, leadership qualities and personal charisma have moved him into influential positions on the national Church scene. He is president of the Conference of Major Superiors of Men embracing all the religious orders serving in the U.S., and president of the National Black Catho-

lic Clergy Caucus. He is a member of the U.S. bishops' ad hoc committee for priestly life and ministry and their Bicentennial Commission. He serves on the boards of the National Conference for Interracial Justice, and the Catholic Theological Union.

Now, the little boy who was told the priesthood was closed to him attains the fullness of priesthood conferred on only a few. With his ordination to the episcopacy June 25th, he becomes the fourth black Bishop in the U.S.

Throughout his priesthood, Bishop Francis has been concerned about reversing the situation which historically has placed black people in a "marginal position" to the Church. Their "agitation for inclusion," he believes firmly, is an effort to offer something out of their experience, an experience which has included suffering that has deepened their faith. He regards his appointment as a bishop as part of the struggle of black Catholics to be part of the decision-making process of the Church.



Minor Seminarian



1941 — Seminarian Francis is seen with the late Father Leander Martin, S.V.D., at Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish in Lafayette.

The ultimate goal, as he sees it, is the kind of integration that can never be legislated. It must first be a "coming together of peers," then a "mutuality of love and service."

My early teachers in the Society of the Divine Word taught me that black is beautiful long before I was able to say 'Black is beautiful', he said recently. "But they also made me realize that it is not sufficient to be beautiful . . . one must also do beautiful things for those to whom God has sent one."

Bishop Francis is sent now to the people of the Archdiocese of Newark, particularly those of Essex County where he will be episcopal vicar.

Bishop Francis was born September 30, 1923, the first of five children of

Mathilda Ann Coco and Joseph Abel Francis, who had before his marriage built the house in which they lived in Lafayette, in Louisiana's Creole country. Joseph Francis, Sr. worked as an iceman until the Depression when people could no longer afford ice, then he became a handyman for the Greyhound Bus Co., later bell captain in a hotel, finally a barber with his own shop which he still operates at 76.

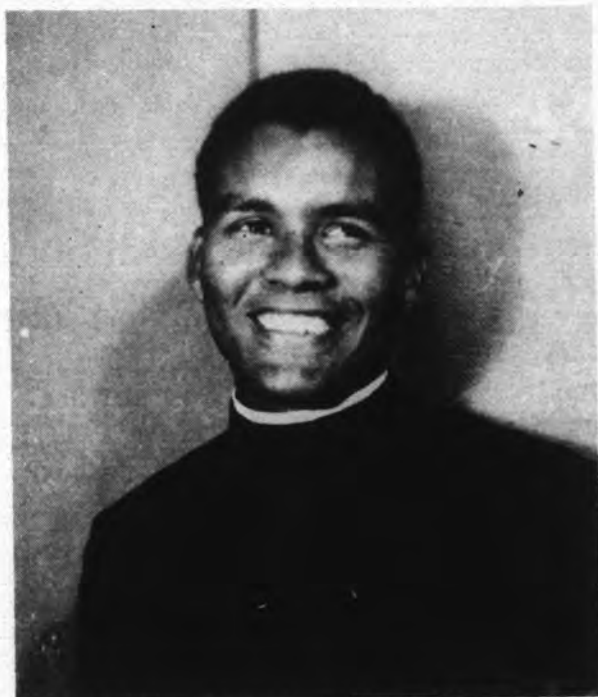
The Francis family raised their own vegetables and kept chickens and a cow — "I remember watering and weeding and walking the cow along the railroad tracks where there was grass," the bishop says with a smile as boyish as the memory. So even in hard times they were able to share with neighbors. "My parents were always generous people and still are," the bishop said. "But they were never obtrusive in their sharing. My Dad would suspect someone was in need and would show up at their door saying, 'We have this extra milk . . .'"



Pronouncing of 1st Vows, Bay St. Louis.

The bishop describes his father as "a tough man in a way," explaining: "He insisted on our doing things he thought were important." In particular, this meant education so that his children would have "the tools to do what he could not do." Today, Norman is an attorney and president of Xavier University in New Orleans; Mabel is a high school teacher whose husband, John Bobb, is mayor of Grand Coteau, La., Velma (Boykin) is a teacher in St. Louis and Pauline (Navarre) is a Headstart coordinator. (His cousin, Mrs. Barbara Connor of Manhattan — with whom he shares a close relationship — teaches physical education in Snyder High School, Jersey City.)

As for his own calling Bishop Francis suspects that his parents, both of whom had considered the religious vocation before they met, hoped for a priest in the family, though they never said so. Theirs was a home in which they prayed together as a family every day, saw their father kneel to pray just before he left the house every time and immediately on his return — after which he would kiss his wife and each



Young Novice



Joe Francis with parents on their 25th Wedding Anniversary.

of his children. There was always a shrine at the Francis home: first it was in honor of the Sacred Heart, then the Blessed Mother, then St. Martin de Porres.

When Joe Jr. decided to enter the seminary, his father couldn't afford the \$500 tuition. But he gave what he could — and he is still contributing to the seminary. Joe Jr. helped a little with the \$3 a week he managed to save out of the \$3.50 a week he'd made delivering ice.

It was homesickness for his warm, affectionate family during the long separations while he was in the seminary that taught Bishop Francis "how to pray in an unstructured way," he says. "I wanted to leave the seminary, the pain of separation was so bad, but I knew I would regret it," he remembers of those teenage years. "In boy-to-God panic I said, 'Look Lord, if you want me to be a priest, you better do something to keep me here'."



Most Rev. Richard O. Gerow of Natchez-Jackson, ordains Fr. Joseph Francis, October 7, 1950.

His mother's weekly letter during five years at the SVD seminary in Techny, Illinois, carried him through; now he misses her letters which she can no longer write because of failing eyesight. When he came home a priest he had an even greater affection for the family he had to get to know all over again. He had a chance to demonstrate it in a way that must have made his father proud — by being tough on his little sister, Mabel, whom he had in class at Holy Rosary, Lafayette, where he taught English, religion and French. It is she who is most like him in personality he says: "We are intense persons, but give the impression of being at ease."

That Bishop Francis derives positive reactions to painful experiences like that separation from his family is illustrated by his recent bout with heart surgery. "It was one of the most cleansing experiences of my life," he says. "Something like that makes you realize that some things are not im-

portant at all. It also brought me closer to friends and members of my family — I began to realize what real love means. It let me to see that people in hospitals need a great deal of affirmation; they need to see that people love them, and we shouldn't be afraid to do this and affirm and empower them. And the dedication of the doctors and nurses made me ask myself, 'Am I as concerned about people in my calling?'"



Father Francis with family on ordination day, October 7, 1950.

Apart from that "growing experience" he tends to shrug off the surgery as "no big thing." He says, "I was never afraid of dying though I love life very much. I was a candidate for a massive heart attack. I was performing at about 20 percent. Now I'm at 93 to 95 percent, which isn't bad for a person of my age. I have an amended heart — I have to be prudent. But I've been able to travel over a million miles by air since the surgery . . ." Among the prudential measures, he had to give up cigarettes, walks five miles a day, and is supposed to play

tennis and golf. At 5-8, he weighs 159 pounds.

As Bishop Francis takes up his duties as auxiliary bishop of Newark, he must relinquish some of the national influence he has exercised, in particular his post as president of the National Conference of Superiors. He has read about Newark, especially its urban problems, but he knows little firsthand. He accepted the appointment, he says, because Archbishop Gerety, whom he's known for years, is one of those men on the Catholic interracial scene who "gives hope that the Church is moving in a positive direction."

"Black people have had so many negative experiences," he said. "When you meet someone who's 'for real' it shows up strongly. I spotted a genuineness in Archbishop Gerety. I saw him under fire in the 60s and 70s from black and white. There were some terrible moments when a lesser person



Fr. Francis assists at ordination of Bishop Harold R. Perry, S.V.D., the first of the current four black members of the hierarchy of the U.S.

would have become discouraged." Bishop Francis referred in particular to the time when then Bishop Gerety chaired a U.S. bishops committee on formation of the National Office for Black Catholics.

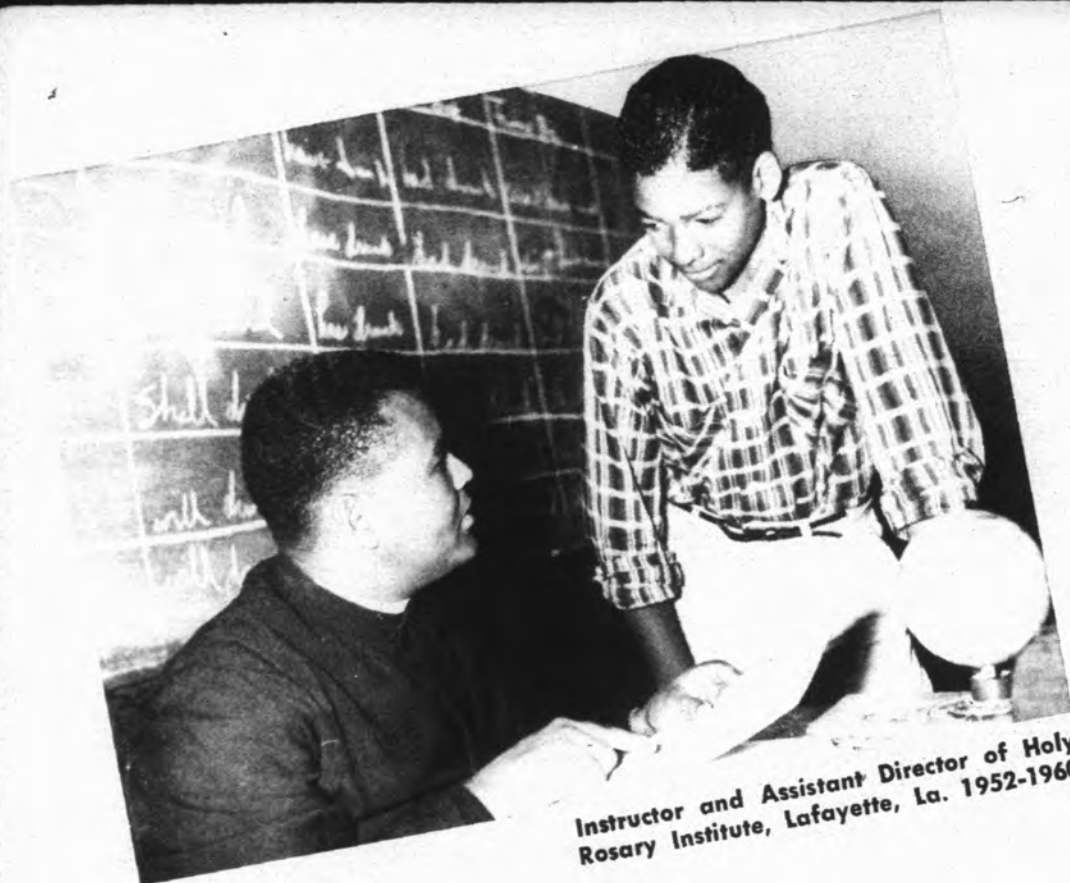
Bishop Francis has called his appointment as auxiliary bishop in Newark the second great challenge in his life. The first was the experience of founding and directing the high school in Watts. This, he also considers the most productive period of his life. It involved giving a good education to black youths, fostering their self awareness and personal dignity, rejoicing in their achievements.

It also involved being on the scene for one of the worst civil disorders of the 60s. After the smoke settled and the blood was wiped away, Bishop Francis invited the Federal commission investigating the causes of the riot to hold their hearings in Verbum Dei High School which they did.

(Continued on Page 54)



On Mother's Day, 1976, Mrs. Francis greets her son, who has just been named a bishop.



Instructor and Assistant Director of Holy Rosary Institute, Lafayette, La. 1952-1960



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1950

PICTURES F



Administrator of Holy Cross Parish,
Austin, Texas. 1960-1961



Coach of basketball team, Holy Rosary
Institute, Lafayette, La. 1953





First Assignment-Instructor and Assistant Dean of Students at St. Augustine Seminary, Bay St. Louis. 1950-1952



Dedication of Verbum Dei High School, Los Angeles, Ca. Served as principal 1962-1967.

ES FROM THE PAST



President of NBCCC with Apostolic Delegate, Bay St. Louis, November 5, 1975.



Father Francis and parents at 25th Anniversary of Ordination, Lafayette, La. 1975



1964, Cardinal McIntyre visits Verbum Dei High School, in the Watts area.

He could have told them many of the causes. He had seen the selectivity of the destruction: loan shark offices, stores that exploited black people — Verbum Dei High School didn't suffer a scratch. He could have told them in a Christian context: "There are certain things no one can withhold from other people. Liberality is God's prerogative. I cannot be liberal with what belongs to someone else. It is not something you do as an option; it is a Christian duty."

He doesn't see much improvement in the condition of two separate, unequal societies since the 60s, and he feels strongly that the Church should work to influence the political process to see that the Gospel imperative to "feed the hungry" is implemented in the form of care of the elderly, the poor, the children in the schools. "The Church has to go to the people who have the money and see that it's allo-

cated. It has to arouse the moral sense of politicians and constituents. If the bishops do organize effectively, we're going to see a change," he says. This "sophisticated" approach to social problems is the order of the day, he adds, "Private charity is no longer possible."

Bishop Francis is a man of engaging charm, a gifted speaker, a candid conversationalist, a personality conveying joy and approachability. He sees the role of a bishop as that of "a servant to humankind . . . a friend to those over whom he has authority . . . the chief instrument of reconciliation." The bishop must read the signs of the times through prayer and study, he says, realizing that "Christ's presence is a dynamic thing."

"I am excited about the prospect of serving the Church in Newark," he said.

Fr. Francis shown with mother, father, nieces and nephews.



Ordination Highlights



A combined choir of religious and laity added festive song to the occasion.



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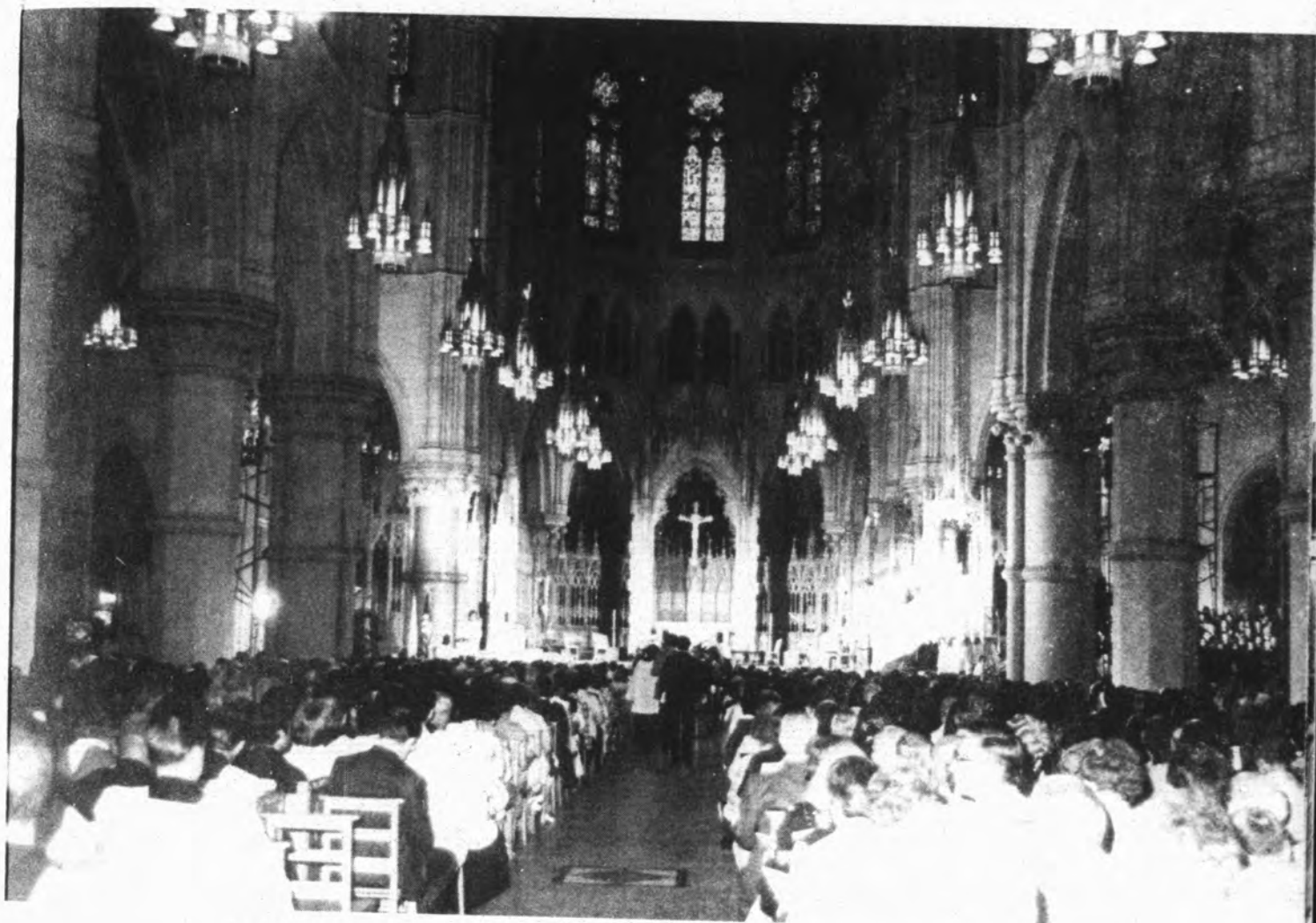
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Fr. Francis shown with mother, father, nieces and nephews.



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Left to right: Bishop Joseph B. Brunini of Natchez-Jackson, and Bishop Joseph Howze, Auxiliary Bishop of Natchez-Jackson with Bishop Francis after the ceremony.



More than 45 bishops and archbishops process into the packed Cathedral.



From left to right: Bishop Pechillo, Bishop Marconi, Archbishop Gerety, Bishop Francis and Bishop Garner.

Ver
cess
Pro
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Newark's new auxiliaries, Bishop Garner, Bishop Francis and Bishop Marconi.



Very Rev. Terry Steib, S.V.D. successor of Bishop Francis, as Provincial, was one of the concelebrants at the ordination.



The Francis family is seen in the front pew under the heavy TV lights and cameras.

Left to right: Auxiliary Bishop Eugene Marino, S.S.J., of Washington, D.C., and a native of Biloxi, Ms., and Auxiliary Bishop Harold R. Perry, S.V.D., of New Orleans, confer with Bishop Francis in the Cathedral Rectory.





**Mr. and Mrs. Jules
Alssindor of Lafayette,
Bishop Francis, and
Lafayette Mayor and
Mrs. Kenny Bowen at
reception.**



**Bishop Francis at recep-
tion with Archbishop
Gerety and his parents,
Mr. and Mrs. Joseph A.
Francis of Lafayette.**

**Archbishop Hannan, New Orleans, Bishops Howze, Marino, Francis, Brunini,
Lewis, S.V.D., Bernarding, S.V.D., and Cohill, S.V.D., of New Guinea.**



Three of the four alumni bishops of St. Augustine Seminary. Left to right: Bishop Perry, S.V.D., Bishop Francis, S.V.D., Bishop Carlos Lewis, S.V.D., Auxiliary Bishop of Panama. Missing is Bishop Joseph O. Bowers, S.V.D., St. John's, Antigua.



Father Fisher Robinson, S.V.D., principal of Verbum Dei High School, Watts, and Very Rev. Leonard Olivier, S.V.D., Rector of Divine Word College, Epworth, Iowa.



Dr. and Mrs. Kinchen and family with Bishop Francis at reception following ordination.



A NEW BISHOP GOES HOME

by George Gurtner
Clarion Herald, New Orleans

Having a new bishop in the family can create problems.

Take the case of the Francis household here.

Hellos and goodbyes to Bishop Joseph A. Francis here used to be suffixed by everything from just plain "Joe" to "Uncle Joe" to "Uncle Father Junior."

The Francis family dictionary of greetings now has to be revised.

"I ALWAYS CALLED him Joe in private, but in public I called him Father," Mrs. Joseph Francis says, savoring the Mother's Day news that her son had been selected the fourth black Catholic bishop in the United States. "I guess all that will have to change now . . . But I guess I'll still call him Joe here at home."

"Junior always lived here, right here in this house," Joseph Francis Sr., a still active barber at 76, says. "I built this house 55 years ago and my wife and I have always lived here . . . All our children grew up here and we had an idea a long time ago that Joseph was interested in the priesthood.



Arrival at New Orleans Airport after being named bishop.

"As a kid, he used to go into the backyard and get all the neighborhood kids together for a 'Mass.' He'd set up an altar back there and say Mass and even distribute 'communion.'"

THE NATURAL PROGRESSION for a youngster like that would seem to be serving as an altar boy, but altar boys in the thirties were inclined to be "more mature," 13 or 14 years old at least . . . at 11 Joseph Francis Jr. didn't have a chance.

"While he was in grade school I promised and then let him go to the seminary," Mr. Francis recalls of his son's early years. "Of course, they sent him back. They said he was too young. But shortly after two priests came from the seminary and took him back.



Francis Family: Left to right, Mrs. Pauline Navarre, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph A. Francis, Sr., Bishop Francis. Back row: Mrs. Velma Boykins, Dr. Norman Francis, and Mrs. Mabel Bobb.

"This was right at the Depression and it was hard . . . but I told my wife, 'We'd better save our money to send for him . . . He won't want to stay in a seminary for long.' Our pastor even told us, 'If he comes home . . . if he changes his mind, welcome him with open arms, don't reproach him for changing his mind.'"

JOSEPH A. FRANCIS JR. did indeed come home. But when he did, last week, is was as a bishop-to-be.

"The phone rang very early in the morning and I was alarmed," Mrs. Francis says. "But when I heard that news, I got so very excited . . . This is the greatest Mother's Day present a mother could get. I started thinking about what to fix him to eat . . . He watches his diet very closely, you know, and all I think about is feeding him. As soon as I see him, I'll ask him what he wants to eat and he'll say 'Mama, let me get into the house first before you worry about feeding me.'"

"She still thinks of him as her baby," Mr. Francis chimes in.

The new bishop pulls into the driveway with his brother, Norman, Norman's wife, and a host of nieces and nephews.

Members of the family, nephews and nieces pose with their new bishop after a family Mass at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, Lafayette, Mother's Day, 1976.



"A Bishop should always be neat," says the father of Bishop-elect Joseph Francis, suiting the deed to the word, as he gets pointer from another son, Norman, president of Xavier University, New Orleans.



New Bishop arrives home on Mother's Day, 1976 in Lafayette.



HE WALKS UP TO THE quaint wooden house on Lafayette Street where he was born 52 years ago.

Neighbors come up from across the street. Some have their hands extended in congratulations. One woman kisses him on his cheek and pulls away suddenly as if to say, "Is it proper to kiss a bishop?"

Most have aimed cameras at the new bishop and are clicking away.

Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Francis wait patiently on the porch.

"I wonder what he'd like for dinner today," Mrs. Francis asks. This is a very special Mother's Day . . . I hope he isn't nervous."

"I'D LIKE TO GET HIM and trim some of that hair," Mr. Francis says. A bishop should always be neat."

Bishop Joseph A. Francis is home.



Bishop-elect Francis gives graduation talk at St. Joseph's Seminary College, St. Benedict, La. — his first major talk as bishop.



Giving the homily at the Divine Word Missionaries 100th Anniversary Celebration, St. Augustine's Church, New Orleans.

His home dioceses honor Bishop Francis with a Mass at the Cathedral in Lafayette, followed by a public and civic reception at the Lafayette Municipal Auditorium.



COAT OF ARMS
OF
THE MOST REVEREND JOSEPH ABEL FRANCIS, S.V.D., D.D.
TITULAR BISHOP OF VALLIPOSITA
AUXILIARY TO THE ARCHBISHOP OF NEWARK



BLAZON

Party Per Fess: gules, a cross or in middle chief; a broken chain sable in dexter chief, and a broken chain sable in sinister chief; In Base, Party Per Pale: in dexter base, sable, stalks of sugar cane vert; in sinister base, vert, two towers sable and one tower argent.

SIGNIFICANCE

The shield is divided in half horizontally. On the upper (red) field, a gold cross in the center is flanked on each side by a broken black chain. The lower half of the shield is divided again vertically. On the right (black) field is a cluster of green sugar cane stalks; on the left (green) field are three Watts towers, two black and one silver.

The terms "right" and "left" are used with reference to the bearer of the shield, whose right is the viewers' left. Basic Colors: Red, Black, Green, the colors of the Liberation Flag. Theme: Liberation Through The Cross. Motto: Justice - Peace - Liberty.

The Cross which dominates the center of the shield is taken from the shield of The Society of The Divine Word—The bishop's Religious Family.

The cross is a symbol of Christ who frees us by His death on that Cross — it is the sign of our ultimate liberation.

The cross in the center of the broken chain symbolizes at one and the same time Christ's means of liberating us and also symbolizes our unity in Christ. The cross also symbolizes the Faith which sustained the bishop's ancestors in their bondage.

The chain is the symbol of the bishop's slave ancestry — and consequently symbolizes the violence which separated his people from their ancestry and homes and at the same time kept them in bondage in a foreign land.

The towers are the Watts Towers — symbolizing a poor man's desire for recognition and immortality. The Towers located in Watts, California, symbolize the people among whom and the place where Bishop Francis spent so far the most productive years of his life. The spires of the Towers are a symbol of Hope — ever looking upwards, free from the bonds of earth. The white and black towers show the beauty of blackness as enhancing whiteness and vice versa — each contributing to the total, each reflecting uniqueness and dignity.

The sugar cane stalks symbolize the one unique agricultural product of Bishop Francis' immediate birthplace. The sugar cane stalks are symbols, both of oppression and survival.

The motto Liberty, Peace and Justice is what the bishop has dedicated his life to as a black religious, a priest and missionary and now, hopefully, as a bishop.

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BROTHER READING ROOM
DIVINE WORD SEMINARY
EAST TROY WI 53120



Library
Divine Word Seminary
East Troy, Wisconsin

Lord,
you guide all creation with fatherly
care.

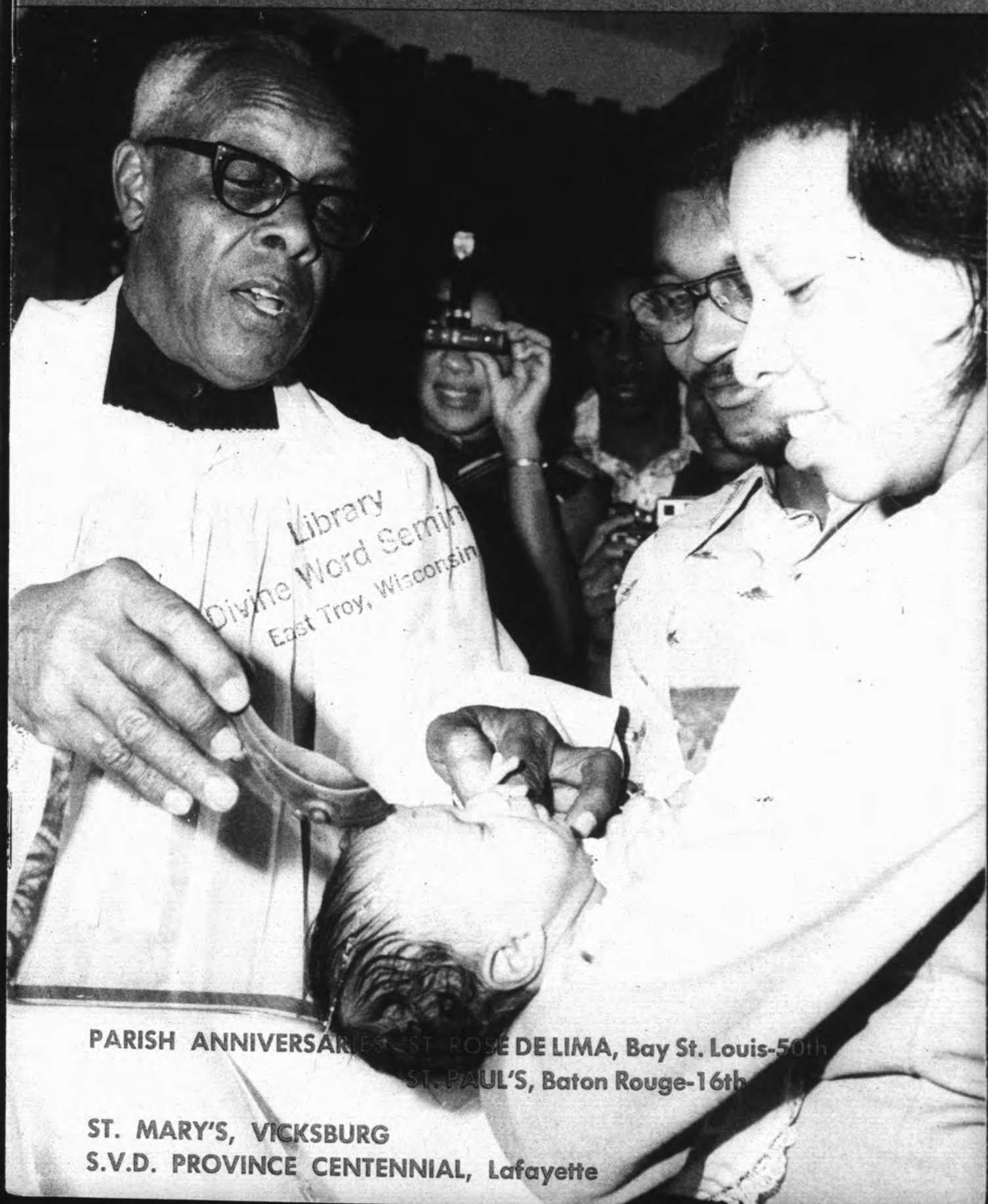
As you have given all men one
common origin,
bring them together peacefully into
one family
and keep them united in brotherly
love.

We ask this through our Lord
Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you and
the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.
Amen.

From Mass for Peace and Justice

DIVINE WORD Messenger

FALL-WINTER 1976



PARISH ANNIVERSARIES ST. ROSE DE LIMA, Bay St. Louis-50th
ST. PAUL'S, Baton Rouge-16th

ST. MARY'S, VICKSBURG
S.V.D. PROVINCE CENTENNIAL, Lafayette

DIVINE WORD MESSENGER

EDITOR

William J. Kelley, S.V.D.

CONTRIBUTORS

Gloria E. Lee

Shelley P. Singleton

COVER

Fr. John Bowman, S.V.D., pastor of St. Mary's parish, Vicksburg, administers the sacrament of Baptism to one of his new parishioners on the occasion of the S.V.D. Centennial celebration.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

1 yr.—\$2; 2 yrs.—\$4;
3 yrs.—\$5.

ADDRESS ALL CORRESPONDENCE:

Divine Word Messenger
Bay St. Louis, Mississippi 39520

PHOTO CREDITS: Staff or contributed

FALL-WINTER, 1976

VOL. 53, NO. 4

THE DIVINE WORD MISSIONARIES are an international missionary order of over 5,000 members including Bishops, Priests, and Brothers. In 1905 the order began working among the black people of the southern U.S. Today the order conducts more than 40 parishes and missions in that region. Also, the order early gained a reputation for training black Priests and Brothers at its Bay St. Louis seminary. Today candidates of any race may train there.

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Second class postage paid at Bay Saint Louis, Miss., and at an additional mailing office in Lowell, Mass. DIVINE WORD MESSENGER is published quarterly by Society of the Divine Word, Province of St. Augustine, Bay Saint Louis, Miss. 39520.

Printed by Sullivan Brothers, Lowell, Mass.
SEND FORMS 3579 TO: DIVINE WORD MESSENGER,
BAY SAINT LOUIS, MISSISSIPPI 39520

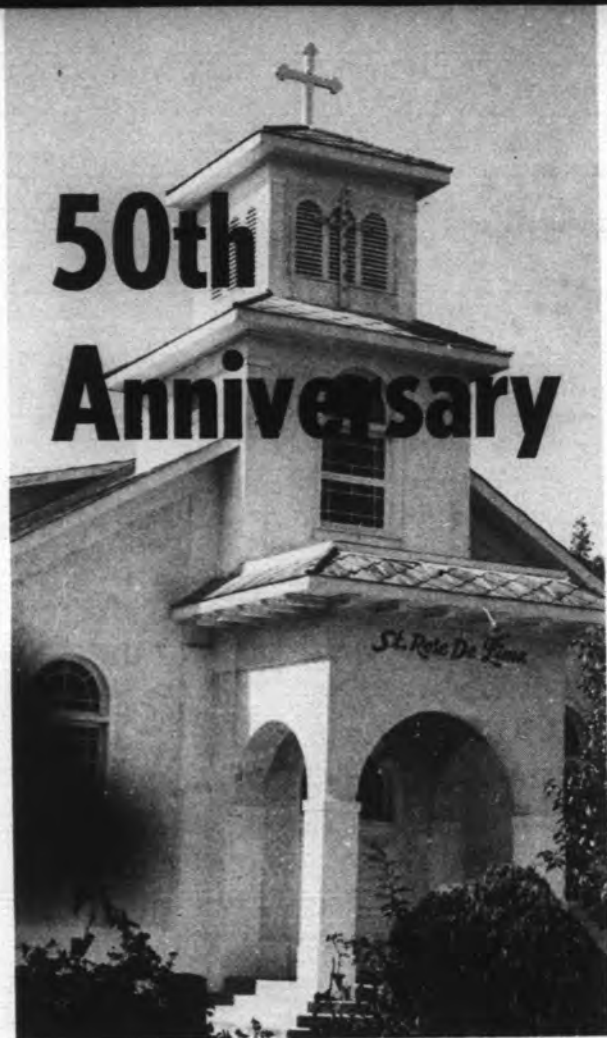
Editor's Note

Dear Readers:

Due to the naming of Bishop Joseph A. Francis, S.V.D., D.D., former Provincial Superior of the Divine Word Southern Missions, as Auxiliary Bishop of Newark, New Jersey, and the consequent delay in the Special Summer Issue dedicated to him (we wanted you, our readers, to share in our joy) this Fall-Winter, 1976 issue is somewhat late.

With any new change in administration new appointments are usually made. Very Rev. Terry Steib, S.V.D., was elected our new Provincial Superior of the Southern Province and appointed to that position by our Superior General. Along with Father Steib other new appointments also became effective. Fr. Francis Theriault, S.V.D., formerly pastor of St. Augustine's parish, New Orleans was named Vocation Director of the Southern Province to succeed Fr. William J. Kelley, S.V.D. Fr. Kelley has been appointed Provincial Treasurer of the Divine Word Southern Missions and will continue in his position as Editor of the MESSENGER.

In the meantime the work of the Divine Word Missionaries in the Southern Missions went on uninterruptedly and continues to be full of various apostolic activities. In this issue, we hope to help you "catch up" on some of what has been happening during the last few months. For example, you will see the various parish anniversary functions, our Province Centennial Celebration in Lafayette, La., the "old" and "new" faces at the seminary, among other items. And just as 1976 was a very special year for all our Divine Word Missionaries, 1977 gives us even greater hope that, with God's help, and your prayers and interest, together we will help others share in the Love of His Divine Word. May God bless all of you.



Present parish church of St. Rose de Lima.



First Communion class of St. Rose Parish in 1925.

Original school building formerly staffed by the nuns of St. Joseph, Our Lady of the Gulf parish at Bay St. Louis. The school dated back to mid 1800's, was standing on property belonging to Our Lady of the Gulf Parish. This photo was made when Fr. Francis Baltes, S.V.D. assumed directorship of the school in 1920. Later this structure was abandoned for a new location on Necaise Avenue where the parish still exists.



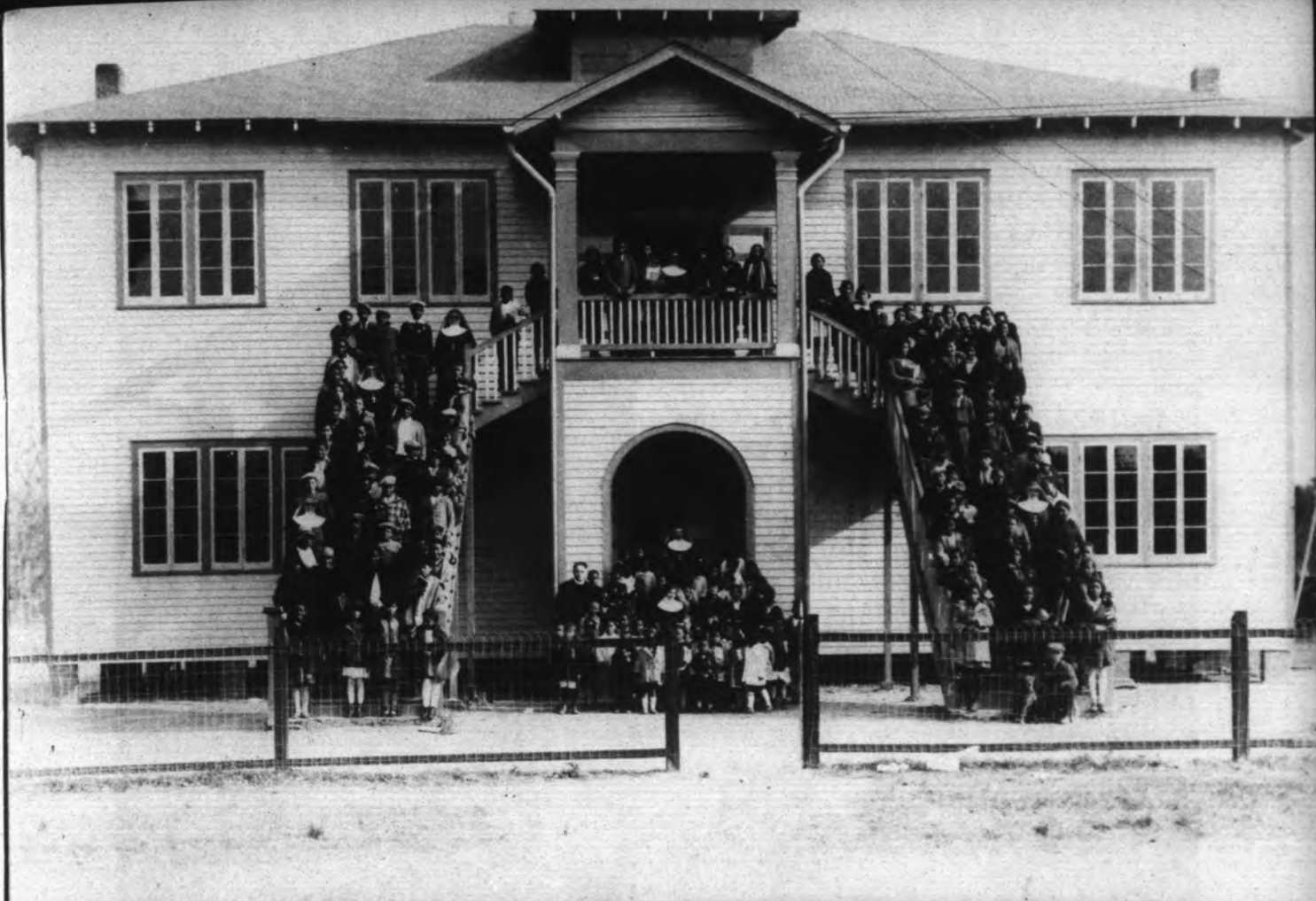
Rev. Francis Theriault, S.V.D., new Vocation Director of the Southern Province, was principal celebrant at a special 50th Anniversary Mass of Thanksgiving at noon on Sunday, July 25, 1976.

Concelebrants were Rev. Borgia Aubespain, S.V.D., present pastor of St. Rose, Rev. Walter Bracken, S.V.D., formerly assistant pastor of St. Rose, and Rev. Terry Steib, S.V.D., Provincial Superior of Divine Word Missionaries Southern Province, who delivered the homily.

Immediately after the Mass, a program of selected music was sung and the program concluded with the serving of dinner on the St. Rose de Lima School grounds.

The history of St. Rose School and parish goes back over one hundred years. It is recorded that in 1868 there were twenty-four Black children attending school. The school, at that time, was associated with Our Lady of the Gulf Church and was not known as St. Rose de Lima.

The Sisters of St. Joseph were asked, in 1885, to take over the school. This was a side work to their main activi-



An early picture of St. Rose School with Sister Servants of the Holy Spirit and pupils.



Last graduating class of St. Rose High School, 1968.

The present school was consolidated in August 1976 with Our Lady of the Gulf parish and is now called Bay St. Louis Catholic Elementary. St. Mary Celeste, S.Sp.S., is now principal of both campuses. Grades 1-3 are at St. Rose.



ties at St. Joseph Academy for girls. In 1921, they asked that some other group take over the Black school since they found it too difficult to run both. So, at this time the Divine Word Missionaries took over the care of the school.

In 1924 four Sister Servants of the Holy Spirit came to work in the school. The site of the school was then moved to Necaie Avenue. The enrollment began to climb. A two story building was erected and stood until a new school was built in 1959.

The present church was built through the efforts of parishioners in 1925. The following year the parish was named St. Rose de Lima.

Over the years twelve Divine Word Missionaries have served as pastors of St. Rose. They are: Fathers Francis



St. Rose Parish Council members are, from left, rear, William Tate III, Loretta Labat, Fr. Borgia Aubespín, pastor, Maurice Singleton; front, from left, Louise Williams, Sr. Mary Celeste, principal, and Gloria Lee.

Baltes, S.V.D., 1926-1931; John Henderop, S.V.D., 1931-1935; Joseph Holken, S.V.D., 1935-1946; John Kindler, S.V.D., 1946-1950; Peter Boerding, S.V.D., 1950-1952; Joseph Eckerd, S.V.D., 1952-1953; Louis Nau, S.V.D., 1953-1955; John Bowman, S.V.D., 1955-1961; Francis Wade, S.V.D., 1961-1964; William Jans, S.V.D., 1964-1966; George Heffner, S.V.D., 1966-1973; and Borgia Aubespín, S.V.D., present pastor, has been at St. Rose since 1973.



Present pastor, Fr. Borgia Aubespín, S.V.D., celebrates Mass.



SISTER SERVANTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT serving in St. Rose School are, from left, rear, Sr. Marie Celine; Sr. Margaret, Sr. Mary Celeste, Principal; Sr. Adelmara; middle row, Sr. Dulcenia, Sr. Carmella; front, Sr. Bernice, superior.

ACTIVITIES AT

St. Mary's, Vicksburgh

St. Mary's parish, Vicksburg, celebrated its 70th anniversary during the Centennial year of the Divine Word

Missionaries. The parish grew from its humble beginnings in 1906 with 40 parishioners assembled for the first



Darien Keith Washington and Linda Carlise Maxey become new members of the 'community of St. Mary's parish family.



Mr. & Mrs. John Maxey, of St. Mary's, parents of ten children, were sponsors for Mary Ann Mumbi, an American Field Service exchange from Nairobi, E. Africa.

Mass said by Fr. Aloysius Heick, S.V.D., at a chapel in a three room home on Holley Street.

With assistance from Mother Katharine Drexel, foundress of the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament, and help from other benefactors, Fr. Heick was able to purchase new property on Second North and Jackson Street. Several small buildings stood on the property and these were converted into a chapel, a priest's house, a school and a convent.



Young "Winn" caught in the act of raiding candy jar!

In September, 1906, the Sisters Servants of the Holy Spirit arrived from Techny, Illinois to conduct St. Mary's school. The school opened with 30 students. The number steadily increased so that a new school building was necessary. Again with help from Mother Drexel, and the personal supervision of the parish's new pastor, Fr. Hoenderop (who designed the building), a new school, brick structure was completed in a few months time



The parish celebrates Divine Word Missionaries' 100th Anniversary with a reception after Mass.

and was ready for 150 students by the Fall of 1908. A new brick church was added in 1923.

Over the years through the hard work of zealous pastors and enthusiastic support of the parishioners, St. Mary's continued to grow. Although the school is no longer functioning, the parish is still very vibrant under the pastorship of Fr. John W. Bowman, S.V.D., former Provincial Superior of the Southern Province. The chapel has been completely remodeled and re-decorated and active participation in liturgical functions flourishes. The other buildings of the parish complex are utilized for various parish functions. The youth of the parish use the Fr. Blates gym for sports events as well as social dances. This first Divine Word Mission parish in the South is still growing and prospering.



Miss Magnoria Flowers, a young convert at St. Mary's was baptized on March 28, 1976 with Mr. & Mrs. Maxey as sponsors.

VOW DAY

August 15, 1976

Bay St. Louis

On August 15, 1976, the Society of the Divine Word received nine new members. Having completed a year of Novitiate under the directorship of Fr. John Stoessel, S.V.D., and the assistance of his Associate, Fr. Edward Dudink, S.V.D., the nine men professed their vows in ceremonies at the chapel of the Divine Word Seminary.

Richard Szimpl, S.V.D., who taught English in Japan for two years prior



Newly professed members, Left to right: Steve Schuler, S.V.D., Br. John DeBold, S.V.D., Br. Dominick Nigro, S.V.D., Rev. John Stoessel, S.V.D., Novice Master, Paul Schmidt, S.V.D., Rev. Edward Dudink, S.V.D., Patrick Wenrick, S.V.D., Ronald Timock, S.V.D., James Kelly, S.V.D., Thomas Umbras, S.V.D., Ron Szimpl, S.V.D.

to his Novitiate, has returned to Japan for language studies and will do his theological studies in Japan. Bro. John DeBold, S.V.D., has been assigned to Divine Word Seminary, Bordentown, New Jersey, and Bro. Dominick Nigro, S.V.D., has been assigned to Divine Word Seminary, Perrysburg, Ohio. The remaining professed, James Kelly, S.V.D., Paul Schmidt, S.V.D., Stephen Schuler, S.V.D., Ronald Timock, S.V.D., Thomas Umbras, S.V.D., and Patrick Wenrick, S.V.D., are pres-



Rev. Edward Dudink, S.V.D., newly missioned to Kenya, E. Africa, delivered the homily on the meaning of the three vows and service.

ently pursuing theological studies at Catholic Theological Union, Chicago. Fr. Edward Dudink, S.V.D., received a new assignment at Kenya, E. Africa, and Fr. Patrick Barder, S.V.D., former Counsellor at Divine Word College, Epworth, Iowa, has taken Fr. Dudink's position.


The following day, a class of 15 new novices was received into the Novitiate formation program. They are: Thomas Aschman, St. Paul, MN; Stephen Berry, Lynwood, CA; James Braband, Chicago, IL; Rick Byrum, Pasadena, CA; James Fisher, Chicago, IL; Kevin Gleason, Santa Monica, CA; Kenneth Hamilton, Chicago, IL; Michael Keefe, Chicago, IL; Gerald Leonard, San Diego, CA; Michael Lindstrom, Norridge, IL; Dennis Newton, Waterloo, IA; Stephen Pasto, Clifton Springs, NY; Melvin Vigil, Glendale, CA; Mark Weber, Dubuque, IA; and Michael Wessa Waukesha, WI.



Actual pronunciation of vows to the Community.

SOUTHERN P

September 18, 19
1976



**100 YEAR
MISSION
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AND OVER 70 Y
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RN PROVINCE

19

Lafayette
La.



YEARS OF
MISSION

INE WORD
SIONARIES

ER 70 YEARS IN

ICE TO THE
COMMUNITY

J. S. A.



Special Mass of Celebration



Five Attending Bishops

St. Paul's Celebrates



Rev. Cliff Labbe, S.V.D., pastor of St. Paul's, Baton Rouge.

St. Paul's parish, Baton Rouge recently celebrated its 16th Anniversary with a Mass of Thanksgiving with its new pastor, Fr. Cliff Labbe, S.V.D., officiating. Shortly thereafter, St. Paul's became an independent parish with all canonical rights.

The parish was originally carved out of Sacred Heart Parish, Baton Rouge, in the summer of 1960 and until last September was still considered a mission of Sacred Heart.

Property for the parish occupies part of a block along Gus Young Avenue in the very center of a large Black population. The old Capitol Theatre, an empty brick building was acquired and remodeled into a church with the original living quarters of its first priest, the late Father Aubry Osborne, being the projection booth. Fr. Osborne said the first Mass in the Church on

St. Paul's Church . . .



es 16th Anniversary

July 3, 1960. All this was before Baton Rouge became a diocese.

When the Baton Rouge Diocese was formed out of the New Orleans Archdiocese, Fr. Osborne left for a new appointment at nearby Scotlandville and on September 14, 1962, the Divine Word Missionaries accepted the parish and Fr. Elmer S. Powell, S.V.D., became the first Divine Word Missionary priest assigned. During Fr. Powell's administration a rectory and a parish center were added. Fr. George Artis, S.V.D., presently pastor of St. Mary's, Houston, continued to in-



Very Rev. Terry Steib, S.V.D., preached at the Mass of Thanksgiving on the occasion of the 16th Anniversary of St. Paul's.

A highlight of the liturgy was the taking of the oath of office by all elected parish officials before the entire congregation.



crease the various parish activities after Fr. Powell. Fr. Artis was assisted by Fr. Richard Jeschke, S.V.D., and Fr. Cliff Labbe, S.V.D., assumed pastoral responsibility in 1976. Fr. Labbe is a member of the Diocesan Liturgical Commission, serves as a spiritual director for the Prep Seminary in Baton Rouge and was appointed for the City of East Baton Rouge to the Board for Eden Park, Health Referral and the Metropolitan Human Development and Information Center. (St. Paul's is known as the Eden Park area).

St. Paul's has experienced an amazing growth through the 15 year period: 756 children baptized, 353 adult baptisms for a total of 1109. There were 547 confirmations, 206 marriages and a loss of 74 members through death.



Two young members of St. Paul's enjoy the social gathering after the Mass of Thanksgiving in St. Paul's Community Center.

Another scene from the reception following the Mass of Thanksgiving.



Other Happenings

BLACK THEOLOGY WORKSHOP

Over 30 Members of the Southern Province attended a three day workshop on Black Theology from May 31-June 2, 1976. Under the direction of Rev. Borgia Aubespín, S.V.D., Bro. Lucius Guillory, S.V.D., Rev. Curtis Guillory, S.V.D., and Rev. Terry Steib, S.V.D., many areas of concern were covered and all agreed it was a rewarding workshop. A liturgy workshop concluded the event with a meaningful Mass, based on Spirituals by Shirley Stewart of New Orleans.



S.V.D. participants in Workshop.

SENIOR CITIZEN AWARD

Fr. Clarence Weber, S.V.D., was honored by the Archdiocese of New Orleans as the Male Religious Senior Citizen of the Year in 1976. Fr. Weber is stationed at Mater Dolorosa Church,

New Orleans. He was given the award for showing outstanding leadership and inspiration to the community and Senior Citizens of the Greater New Orleans area.

RECTOR RE-APPOINTED

Fr. Gerhard Vogel, S.V.D., was re-appointed rector of Divine Word Seminary, Bay St. Louis, in June 1976.



Workshop Leaders

REGIONAL CENTENNIAL CELEBRATIONS New Orleans

St. Augustine's Parish, New Orleans, was host to the Archdiocesan S.V.D. Centennial Celebration on June 20, 1976. Archbishop Hannan of New Orleans, joined by his Auxiliary Bishops, Harold R. Perry, S.V.D., L. Abel Caillouet, Bishop-elect (at the time) Stanley Ott; and Bishop-elect



Shirley Stewart leads Workshop participants in liturgy.

(at the time) Joseph A. Francis, S.V.D., Auxiliary Bishop of Newark, New Jersey, were in attendance.

Bishop Francis preached the homily on the role of the Divine Word Missionaries work in the Southern Province. Representatives from the various parishes served by the S.V.D.'s, in the Archdiocese of New Orleans, were present. A public reception followed in the parish hall.



Participating bishops at Archdiocese of New Orleans, S.V.D. Centennial at St. Augustine's Parish, New Orleans.

Pine Bluff, Arkansas

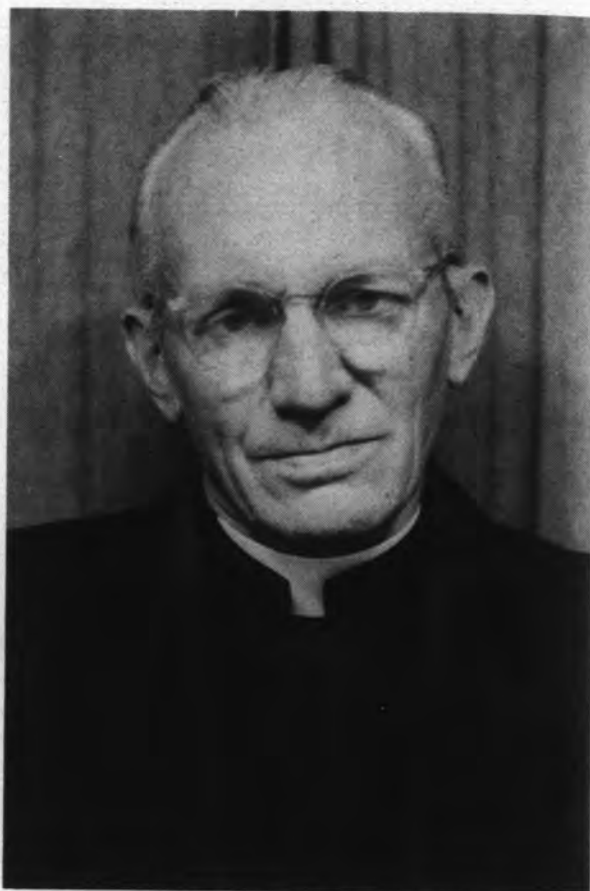
Fr. Frank Ecimovich, S.V.D., hosted the Arkansas area 100th Anniversary at St. Peter's, Pine Bluff. Fr. Vance Thorne, S.V.D., pastor of St. Bartholomew's, Little Rock, brought a bus load of parishioners for the event. Fr. Pat Lee, S.V.D., and his choir from Sacred Heart Parish, Greenville, provided music for the occasion. Fr. Steib preached and Bishop Andrew McDonald of Little Rock and retired Bishop Albert Fletcher were in attendance, along with Mayor Moore of Pine Bluff.

PARISH BOUNDARIES ESTABLISHED

St. Jules', Franklin, La., recently received parish boundaries.

NEW APPOINTMENTS

Fr. Curtis Guillory, S.V.D., was installed as new pastor of St. Augustine's Parish, New Orleans, on October 3,



Fr. Clarence Weber, S.V.D., recipient of Senior Citizen Award.

1976, with a large crowd in attendance. Fr. Curtis is very active in many areas, including the teaching apostolate, as a chaplain to a local high school, the TV apostolate, and in the civic problems in the inner city. He gave a talk



Flags of 36 Nations where Divine Word Missionaries are at work, decorate St. Augustine's Church, New Orleans, on occasion of 100th.

entitled, "Values and the Black Community" at a workshop on October 25th and 26th at Notre Dame Seminary, New Orleans. Fr. Guillory was also chosen as a delegate from the Southern Province to the General Chapter to be held in Rome in the Fall of 1977.

Fr. Elmer Powell, S.V.D., has been appointed Director of Holy Rosary Institute, Lafayette.



Participating clergy at S.V.D. Centennial in Pine Bluff, Arkansas along with Bishop Andrew McDonald, and retired Bishop Fletcher of Little Rock.

Fr. Richard Jeschke, S.V.D., has been appointed Associate Pastor of St. Augustine's Parish, New Orleans.

Fr. Lawrence Friedel, S.V.D., has retired and is now residing at Divine Word Seminary, Bay St. Louis.

Fr. Walter Bracken, S.V.D., was appointed assistant Dean of the high school seminarians in Bay St. Louis. He is also an instructor in academics in the Permanent Deacon Program for the Diocese of Natchez-Jackson.

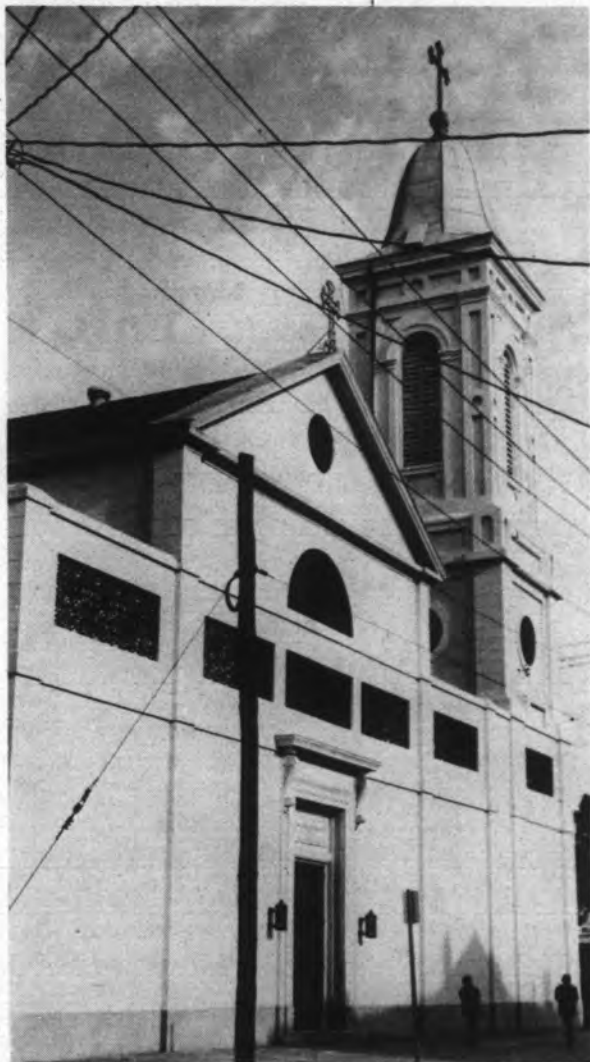
Fr. Charles Leisring, S.V.D., pastor of St. John's, Waco, Texas, is now chaplain to the Veteran's Hospital in Waco in addition to his pastoral responsibilities.

Fr. Malcolm O'Leary, S.V.D., Holy Ghost Parish, Jackson, Miss., was elected as a new member of the Natchez-Jackson Priest Senate. He joins Fr. Borgia Aubespain, S.V.D., assistant Provincial, who was elected over a

year ago. Bishop Francis conferred the Sacrament of Confirmation in Fr. O'Leary's parish on October 2, 1976. Bishop Francis also confirmed parishioners at St. Mary's Parish in Houston, Texas.

PROVINCE CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

The Centennial Celebration for the Southern Province was held in Lafayette Municipal Auditorium on September 18th and 19th, 1976. Over 415 persons attended the testimonial banquet on the 18th, and 1,200 attended the closing Mass of Thanksgiving. On hand were six bishops, including our three S.V.D. bishops: Bishop Carlos Lewis, S.V.D., Bishop Harold Perry, S.V.D., and Bishop Joseph Francis, S.V.D., (Fr. Frank Power, S.V.D., represented Bishop Joseph Bowers,



St. Augustine's Church, New Orleans.

S.V.D., who was unable to attend due to minor surgery), and many guests. The Seminary community was on hand for the Mass of Thanksgiving.

BISHOP FRANCIS DAY

The Diocese of Natchez-Jackson honored Bishop Joseph Francis, S.V.D., in Jackson on October 3rd and in Bay St. Louis, on October 4th



Bishop Francis Day, Bay St. Louis, October 4, 1976.

with a Concelebrated Mass sponsored by Our Lady of the Gulf parish and our S.V.D. parish, St. Rose de Lima. A public reception followed. Governor Finch proclaimed October 4th as "Bishop Joseph Francis, S.V.D. Day" in the state of Mississippi, noting the achievements of St. Augustine's Seminary and Bishop Francis' outstanding service.



Dinner following Mass, Bishop Francis Day, Our Lady of the Gulf, Bay St. Louis, Missouri.

PROVINCIAL CHAPTER

On December 14-16, twenty-three delegates of the Southern Province



Bishop Francis speaks at Mass honoring him on Bishop Francis Day.

met in Bay St. Louis for a Provincial Chapter to formulate its objectives for the next three years.

SUPERIOR GENERAL'S VISIT

Very Rev. John Musinsky, S.V.D., Superior General of the Divine Word Missionaries, recently concluded an official visitation of the Southern Province as part of the preparation for the General Chapter of the Divine Word Missionaries to take place in the Fall of 1977, in Rome.

TO HELP THE MISSIONS

We redeem all pieces of silver, gold, watches, eyeglasses, gold fillings, or any odd pieces of jewelry.

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Repeatedly we receive questions about Mass stipends. We are very grateful for your Mass stipends. They are distributed promptly among our missionaries both at home and abroad. As the individual missionaries must fit your requests into their local schedules and conditions, it is not easily possible, regretfully, to arrange for definite dates on which the Masses will be said or sung.

CUSTOMARY OFFERINGS FOR HOLY MASSES
(Vary according to your Diocese regulations)

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NOVENA OF MASSES — twenty dollars

GREGORIAN MASSES (requested customarily
for but a single departed soul)
—seventy-five dollars

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Dear Father: I am sending the following Mass requests to you. I understand that dates for these will be arranged as close to my request as can be arranged.

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Send Mass intentions (with your name
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New Gospel Album For Black Liturgy

LAFAYETTE, LA. A new gospel album designed to aid liturgical renewal in Black Catholic parishes, entitled 'Cause I'm Black', has been produced by the Peoples' Choir of Immaculate Heart of Mary parish. The choir, under the direction of Rev. James A. Pawlicki, S.V.D., Divine Word Missionary, presents gospel songs within the context of the real life of black people, the inner and personal struggles, the long struggle for freedom and liberation. The choir recognizes in its songs the spiritual heritage of black people—an expression of religious soul in modern day Catholicism. The album contains eleven arrangements, including the Mass of the Drums. It sells for \$6.00 with the proceeds going to further the production of future albums. For further information, contact:

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A Happy and Blessed New Year!